

January
1989
to December
1998

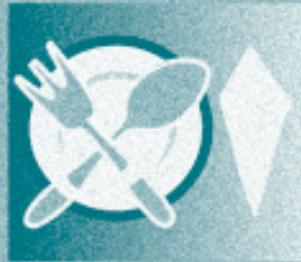
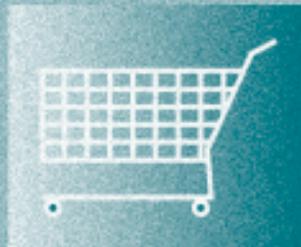
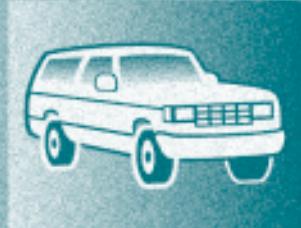
Issued August 1999

BR/98-A

Annual Benchmark Report for Retail Trade

*A Detailed Summary of Retail Sales,
Purchases, Accounts Receivable, and Inventories*

Current Business Reports



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Annual Benchmark Report for Retail Trade

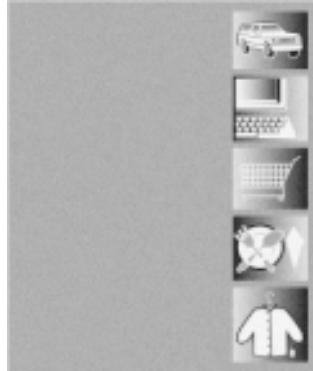
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Annual Benchmark Report for Retail Trade: January 1989 to December 1998

This publication contains the following retail trade estimates:

- Annual and monthly sales by retail stores at the national level.
- End-of-year and end-of-month inventory values.
- Inventories/Sales ratios.
- Annual purchases and gross margin levels.
- Gross margin, as a percent of sales.
- Accounts receivables owed to retail stores.
- Per capita sales.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication presents estimates that reflect a benchmarking process that revised previously published unadjusted monthly sales and end-of-month inventory estimates for the period January 1993 through December 1998. Estimates of annual sales, purchases, and end-of-year inventory values were revised for the years 1993 through 1997. The revised unadjusted estimates reflect:

- Results from the 1992 Census of Retail Trade.
- Preliminary results from the 1997 Census of Retail Trade.
- Subsequent new annual estimates developed for the years 1993 through 1996.

New factors were developed and used to adjust sales and inventories for the period January 1990 through December 1998. The factors were used to adjust sales for seasonal, trading-day, and holiday variations and to adjust inventories for seasonal variations. These factors were developed by using unadjusted estimates as input to the seasonal adjustment program. Adjusted estimates were derived beginning January 1990 instead of January 1993 because the revised 1993 unadjusted estimates can affect the computation of seasonal factors as far back as 1990.

The revision procedures were applied to specific detailed sales and inventory series. All other sales and inventory series were obtained by summing appropriate detail level estimates, thereby assuring additivity.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED DATA

Annual Estimates

Annual estimates of sales, inventories, and purchases derived for the years 1993 through 1997 were adjusted to 1992 and 1997 Census of Retail Trade estimates¹. The 1993 through 1997 annual estimates of sales, end-of-year inventories, and purchases were input to the benchmarking program and revised to—

- Equate the 1997 estimates to *preliminary* results derived from the 1997 Census of Retail Trade².
- Link the series to the 1992 Census of Retail Trade level.
- Maintain, as best as possible, the year-to-year trends computed from estimates derived from our annual survey for the years 1993 through 1997.

Monthly Sales

The final monthly sales sample estimates for December 1992 through December 1998 were used as input to the benchmarking program. The estimates were revised to—

- Constrain the sum of the 12 monthly estimates to equal the revised annual estimates derived for the years 1993 through 1997.
- Maintain, as best as possible, the month-to-month percent changes that were previously published.

The previously published December 1992 estimate was also used to link the revised estimates to the previously published estimates. Also, prior to implementing the benchmarking operation, corrections were applied to the estimates obtained directly from the sample for selected kinds of business.

A mathematical result of the revision methodology is that all sample estimates following the last benchmark year (1997) are revised by multiplying these estimates by the ratio of the revised-to-sample estimate for December 1997. Therefore, for specified detailed sales series, a ratio of the December 1997 revised estimate to the December 1997 input estimate was computed. Sample estimates for

¹The 1992 and 1997 sales were adjusted to include an estimate for nonemployer direct sellers (SIC 5963). These estimates were obtained from the 1992 and 1997 Annual Retail Trade Surveys.

²The inventory and purchase estimates for the census years 1992 and 1997 were computed by multiplying the inventories (or purchases) obtained from the 1992 and 1997 annual surveys by the ratio of *preliminary* census sales to sales derived from the 1992 and 1997 annual surveys. The procedure was implemented because neither inventory nor purchase data were collected in the census.

months following December 1997 were multiplied by these constant ratios (called carry-forward factors) to derive revised sales estimates. The carry-forward factors remain constant until the next benchmarking.

End-of-Month Inventories

The final end-of-month inventory sample estimates for December 1992 through December 1998 were used as input to the benchmarking program. The estimates were revised to—

- Equate the December or end-of-year inventory estimates for the years 1993 through 1997 to the revised end-of-year annual estimates.
- Maintain, as best as possible, the month-to-month percent changes that were previously published.

The previously published December 1992 estimate was also used to link the revised estimates to the previously published estimates. Also, prior to the implementation of the benchmarking operation, corrections were applied to estimates obtained directly from the sample for selected kinds of business.

For specified detailed inventory series, revised estimates subsequent to December 1997 were derived by multiplying the sample estimates by the ratio of the revised December 1997 estimate to the December 1997 sample estimate. This ratio is the carry-forward factor for inventory estimates and is constant for all series until the next benchmarking.

REVISIONS OF SALES AND INVENTORIES : 1998

The following table shows a comparison of the revised sales and inventories estimates to the previously published estimates for 1998:

1998 Retail Sales and Inventories Comparison of the Revised Estimates to the Previously Published Estimates
(Millions of dollars)

Kind of business	Revised	Previously published	Percent change
SALES			
Total retail stores	2,746,011	2,695,855	+1.9
Durable goods	1,138,286	1,132,492	+0.5
Building materials group.....	165,331	166,115	-0.5
Automotive dealers	668,658	661,391	+1.1
Furniture group.....	152,044	159,340	-4.6
Nondurable goods	1,607,725	1,563,363	+2.8
General merchandise group	351,436	353,465	-0.6
Food group	438,212	442,979	-1.1
Gasoline service stations	162,095	149,602	+8.4
Apparel group.....	126,939	123,998	+2.4
Eating and drinking places.....	266,544	247,014	+7.9
Drug and proprietary stores.....	106,713	105,706	+1.0
INVENTORIES¹			
Total retail stores.....	335,457	328,296	+2.2
Durable goods	181,797	179,357	+1.4
Building materials group.....	26,058	26,265	-0.8
Automotive dealers	99,491	96,276	+3.3
Furniture group.....	25,021	25,558	-2.1
Nondurable goods	153,660	148,939	+3.2
General merchandise group	55,921	55,540	+0.7
Food group	30,231	30,455	-0.7
Apparel group.....	23,320	23,035	+1.2

¹End of December. Not adjusted for seasonal variations.

Reasons for Monthly Revisions

There are several reasons for revisions. The main contributors to the revision from the previously published estimates are:

Changes in Classification. The sales and inventory estimates are benchmarked to *preliminary* results from the 1997 Census of Retail Trade. Changes in classification between the 1992 and 1997 censuses affect the levels of the monthly and annual estimates. The previously published estimates were benchmarked to the 1992 census, but the revised levels are benchmarked to the 1997 census. Classification differences may occur because 1)establishments previously classified in other trade areas changed to retail; 2) establishments previously classified as retail are now classified in another trade area; and 3) establishments changed classification within retail trade.

Timing. The respondents have more time to prepare their annual reports than they do for their monthly reports. The annual responses are requested at a time when many firms have already compiled audited book figures for their own use. The timing of the annual survey is such that it is possible to obtain independent verification of the reported data from such sources as a company's annual report. On the other hand, respondents to the monthly survey have just a few weeks to provide reports of their sales and end-of-month inventories. Sometimes these reports are based on incomplete or unaudited records or include estimates by the respondents to represent their understanding of their business.

Sampling. The annual sample is larger than the samples used to develop the estimates for any given month. As described in more detail in Appendix A of this report, the samples used to produce the sales estimates each month consist of certainty companies and noncertainty Employer Identification Numbers (EINs).

- The companies selected as certainty companies are those companies that had large sales in relation to other companies in their kind-of-business group.
- The initial selection of the noncertainty EINs was based on stratified random sampling, using annual sales as the measure of size for those EINs not belonging to a certainty company. The selected noncertainty EINs were assigned to one of two groups. The monthly sample canvasses one group of noncertainty EINs while both groups of noncertainty EINs are canvassed in the annual sample.
- The sample used for the end-of-month inventory estimates is a sub-sample of the monthly sales sample. The monthly inventories sample is about one-third the size of the monthly sales sample. This, combined with the differences between the annual and monthly surveys mentioned above, often results in greater revisions to inventory estimates than sales estimates.

Response. The annual estimates are based on more reported data than are the monthly estimates. The response to the Annual Retail Trade Survey is required by law. This requirement results in a dollar volume response rate above 90 percent. The response to the monthly survey is not mandatory. The response rates for the monthly surveys are usually around 75 percent for sales and 70 percent for inventories. The sales and inventories for the non-reported retailers are accounted for by an imputation process. This process assumes that the nonresponding firms have trends similar to the responding firms, in their respective kinds of business.

Adjustment Factors

In addition to the benchmarking operation, new factors were developed to adjust the 1990 through 1998 estimates of monthly sales for seasonal variations as well as

trading-day and holiday differences. Unadjusted sales estimates for the months of January 1972 through May or June 1999 were used as input. New factors were developed to adjust the 1990 through 1998 end-of-month inventory estimates, using the months of December 1980 through May 1999 as input.

The seasonal adjustment program which developed the factors in this publication was the X-11 ARIMA version, developed by Statistics Canada. Using forecasting, the adjustment factors were developed for the sales of department stores (SIC 5311), variety stores (SIC 5331), and miscellaneous general merchandise stores (SIC 5399) by the version using forecasting. All other factors were calculated without forecasting.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Retail trade, as defined by Major Groups 52 through 59 of the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual includes establishments that are engaged in the sale of merchandise for personal or household consumption and in the rendering of services that are incidental to the sale of the merchandise. Additional characteristics of retail establishments are:

- They usually operate at fixed places of business.
- They are engaged in activities to attract the general public to buy.
- They buy or receive and sell merchandise.
- They may process their products, but such processing is incidental or subordinate to selling.
- They are considered as retail in the trade.

Sales

Sales include merchandise sold (for cash or credit at retail or wholesale) by establishments primarily engaged in retail trade. Services that are incidental to the sale of merchandise, and excise taxes that are paid by the manufacturer or wholesaler and passed along to the retailer are also included. Sales are net after deductions for refunds and allowances for merchandise returned by customers. Sales exclude sales taxes collected directly from customers and paid directly to a local, state, or federal tax agency.

The estimates of sales measure the operations receipts rendered by stores that primarily sell at retail. The sales estimates represent total sales and receipts of all establishments primarily engaged in retail trade. They do not include sales at retail by manufacturers, wholesalers, service establishments, and others whose primary activity is other than retail trade. Because the retail establishment is the basic unit of measure, the published estimates of sales by type of retail store are not intended to measure the total sales for a given commodity or merchandise line.

Inventories

Merchandise inventories are the value of stocks of goods held for sale through retail stores. The inventories estimates represent the value, at cost, of the merchandise available for sale as of the last day of the report period. Methods of valuation may vary according to the accounting practices of each firm. The estimates provided in this report are valued on a non-LIFO (last in, first out) basis. Note - LIFO is a method of valuing inventory where the latest items of merchandise added to the inventory are the first ones taken out. Non-LIFO would mean that another method, such as FIFO (first in, first out), was used to establish the value of the inventory available for sale. Merchandise inventories are shown for stores and warehouses servicing retail establishments. Included are only those warehouses that maintained supplies of merchandise primarily intended for distribution to retail stores within the organization.

In the Annual Retail Trade Survey, most firms reported the value of their inventories as of the close of the calendar year. Some firms, using a fiscal year rather than a calendar year for accounting purposes, valued their inventory as of some date other than the last day of the calendar year. About 26 percent of the retail inventory estimate from the Annual Retail Trade Survey was based on data reported on an end-of-fiscal year other than December 31. In the annual survey, inventories reported for a date in a month other than December were adjusted to a December 31 equivalent, based on ratios developed from the monthly inventory sample.

Inventories/Sales Ratios

The inventories/sales ratios show the relationship of the end-of-month values of inventories to the monthly sales. These ratios can be looked at as indications of the number of months of inventory that are on hand in relation to the sales for a month. For example, a ratio of 2.5 would indicate that the retail stores have enough merchandise on hand to cover two and a half months of sales.

Purchases

Purchases represent the total cost of merchandise that was purchased for resale during the year, whether or not payment for the merchandise was made during the year. Purchases data include cash and credit purchases made at central offices and company warehouses. The purchases, however, exclude deliveries from central offices or warehouses to retail stores owned by other companies. Those companies engaged in both manufacturing and retailing are asked to include purchases at the cost value of inter-company transfers from their plant or warehouses to their retail stores. Also, these companies are asked to include the cost of outside purchases.

Cost of Goods Available for Sale and Cost of Goods Sold

To calculate the cost of goods available for sale, the purchases made during the year are added to the preceding year's end-of-year inventories. To calculate the cost of goods sold, the end of the current year's value of inventories are deducted from the cost of goods available for sale.

Gross Margin

The measure of gross margin represents total sales less cost of goods sold.

Accounts Receivable Balances

Retail accounts receivable are amounts owed to retail stores by their customers for purchases made on credit. The estimate in this publication refer to receivables outstanding as of December 31, including receivables against which the firm has borrowed. However, credit paper discounted or sold to others and amounts actually charged off as bad debts are excluded. Also excluded are amounts charged on credit cards issued by oil companies, banks, and other organizations that issue credit cards.

Charge accounts are credit accounts for which full payment is scheduled to be made at the end of the customary billing period. Installment accounts are classified as open-end or closed-end.

- Open-end installment accounts are primarily revolving or optional accounts. A deferred payment privilege is extended through a line of credit, and the customer has the option of paying the balance in full or paying in two or more installments. The payments are subject to a minimum required payment with a finance charge usually assessed.
- Closed-end installment accounts are those generally requiring a new contract to cover each extension of credit. A pre-computed finance charge is assessed at the time credit is extended. Specified fixed schedules of installment payments are established with the number, the amount of payments, and the due dates specified in the contract.

Leased Department

Leased departments (concessions) are broadly defined as operations of one company conducted within the establishment of another company. Typical examples may include jewelry counters or optical centers within department stores.

GAF

GAF represents sales at stores that sell merchandise normally sold in department stores. GAF includes the following kinds of retail businesses:

- General merchandise group stores (SIC 53).

-
- Apparel and accessory stores (SIC 56).
 - Furniture group stores (SIC 57).
 - Miscellaneous shopping goods stores (SIC 594).

Price Changes

The estimates presented in this publication are not adjusted for price changes.

Detailed Tables

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales by Kinds of Business, Unadjusted and Adjusted: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1992												
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Adjusted⁴														
	Retail sales, total	158,630	159,792	158,620	159,366	160,161	160,714	161,674	162,183	163,997	166,306	166,310	167,881	
	Total (excl. automotive dealers) ..	126,297	126,715	126,099	126,439	127,147	126,989	127,677	128,699	129,386	130,762	130,894	132,234	
	Durable goods, total	56,188	57,314	56,717	57,004	57,250	58,096	58,584	58,117	59,538	60,745	60,440	61,437	
52	Building materials group stores	8,110	8,436	8,369	8,235	8,340	8,315	8,348	8,288	8,500	8,571	8,378	8,764	
521,3	Building materials, supply stores ..	6,090	6,195	6,234	6,141	6,187	6,186	6,266	6,248	6,420	6,395	6,285	6,547	
525	Hardware stores	1,029	1,042	1,060	1,033	1,068	1,050	1,062	1,066	1,070	1,072	1,064	1,083	
55 excl.	Automotive dealers	32,333	33,077	32,521	32,927	33,014	33,725	33,997	33,484	34,611	35,544	35,416	35,647	
551,2,5, 6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	29,902	30,610	30,065	30,500	30,551	31,269	31,530	31,013	32,110	32,987	32,888	33,111	
553	Auto and home supply stores	2,431	2,467	2,456	2,427	2,463	2,456	2,467	2,471	2,501	2,557	2,528	2,536	
57	Furniture group stores	7,849	7,884	7,878	7,876	7,871	7,984	8,072	8,057	8,098	8,171	8,207	8,415	
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	4,226	4,275	4,276	4,289	4,283	4,375	4,407	4,386	4,362	4,353	4,379	4,491	
5722,31, 34	Household appliance, electronics stores	2,889	2,892	2,875	2,882	2,906	2,921	2,958	2,953	3,005	3,077	3,096	3,119	
	Nondurable goods, total	102,442	102,478	101,903	102,362	102,911	102,618	103,090	104,066	104,459	105,561	105,870	106,444	
53	General merchandise group stores	20,087	20,342	19,942	20,017	20,174	20,156	20,189	20,585	20,774	20,941	20,988	21,195	See note 5
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	14,957	15,435	15,091	15,126	15,330	15,277	15,257	15,546	15,682	15,829	15,881	16,084	
531	Dept. stores (incl. leased depts.) ¹	15,364	15,707	15,431	15,462	15,671	15,685	15,627	15,937	16,048	16,226	16,231	16,425	
531 pt.	Conventional dept. stores ¹	4,255	4,357	4,196	4,207	4,261	4,239	4,239	4,252	4,287	4,305	4,269	4,299	
531 pt.	Discount dept. stores ¹	8,140	8,338	8,271	8,298	8,440	8,506	8,520	8,687	8,717	8,919	8,886	9,041	
531 pt.	National chain dept. stores ¹	2,969	3,012	2,964	2,957	2,970	2,940	2,868	2,998	3,044	3,002	3,076	3,085	
533	Variety stores	830	823	780	781	775	781	769	769	772	787	785	825	
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	4,300	4,084	4,071	4,110	4,069	4,098	4,163	4,270	4,320	4,325	4,322	4,286	
54	Food group stores	31,181	31,062	30,962	31,189	31,176	31,179	31,402	31,476	31,410	31,722	31,654	31,710	
541	Grocery stores	29,588	29,508	29,375	29,615	29,612	29,600	29,828	29,917	29,834	30,135	30,105	30,120	
554	Gasoline service stations	11,203	11,128	11,266	11,256	11,392	11,374	11,415	11,440	11,500	11,496	11,604	11,642	
56	Apparel and accessory stores	8,243	8,416	8,296	8,410	8,474	8,668	8,626	8,789	8,888	8,865	8,831	9,022	
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	854	863	869	854	861	901	840	850	857	824	818	827	
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	2,839	2,836	2,860	2,885	2,954	2,939	2,902	2,996	3,020	3,033	3,083	3,141	
566	Shoe stores	1,505	1,536	1,503	1,494	1,494	1,510	1,491	1,511	1,534	1,528	1,502	1,497	
58	Eating and drinking places	16,738	16,745	16,695	16,360	16,470	15,979	16,157	16,508	16,572	16,986	17,386	17,368	
591	Drug and proprietary stores	6,480	6,495	6,472	6,535	6,508	6,470	6,412	6,468	6,444	6,509	6,416	6,436	
592	Liquor stores	1,773	1,797	1,793	1,808	1,806	1,779	1,778	1,811	1,818	1,841	1,835	1,821	
5961	Total mail order	2,752	2,651	2,546	2,776	2,885	3,021	3,114	3,066	3,092	3,111	3,060	3,154	
53,56, 57,594	GAF, total³	41,941	42,457	41,938	42,171	42,353	42,701	42,821	43,400	43,670	43,986	44,091	44,816	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales by Kinds of Business, Unadjusted and Adjusted: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1991												
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Adjusted⁴														
	Retail sales, total	150,742	153,095	154,176	154,770	155,781	155,591	156,391	155,336	155,966	154,826	155,047	155,218	
	Total (excl. automotive dealers) ..	121,878	122,547	123,310	123,705	124,555	124,233	124,639	124,693	123,885	123,554	123,825	123,521	
	Durable goods, total	51,258	53,663	54,027	54,442	54,548	54,532	55,024	53,792	55,338	54,411	54,203	54,812	
52	Building materials group stores	7,225	7,600	7,448	7,775	7,605	7,691	7,752	7,649	7,729	7,635	7,565	7,720	
521,3	Building materials, supply stores	5,220	5,462	5,449	5,730	5,638	5,798	5,796	5,743	5,830	5,801	5,638	5,902	
525	Hardware stores	1,015	1,050	1,027	1,049	1,023	1,016	991	1,022	999	993	1,009	983	
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	28,864	30,548	30,866	31,065	31,226	31,358	31,752	30,643	32,081	31,272	31,222	31,697	
551,2,5, 6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	26,405	28,096	28,408	28,524	28,684	28,832	29,241	28,186	29,607	28,867	28,813	29,288	
553	Auto and home supply stores	2,459	2,452	2,458	2,541	2,542	2,526	2,511	2,457	2,474	2,405	2,409	2,409	
57	Furniture group stores	7,334	7,522	7,606	7,681	7,772	7,739	7,803	7,763	7,718	7,665	7,550	7,583	
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	4,018	4,113	4,123	4,156	4,183	4,124	4,137	4,125	4,135	4,132	4,067	4,128	
5722,31, 34	Household appliance, electronics stores	2,653	2,733	2,789	2,820	2,851	2,848	2,907	2,885	2,820	2,804	2,763	2,748	
	Nondurable goods, total	99,484	99,432	100,149	100,328	101,233	101,059	101,367	101,544	100,628	100,415	100,844	100,406	
53	General merchandise group stores	18,090	18,207	18,720	18,948	19,025	18,768	19,117	19,214	19,008	19,138	19,271	19,317	See note 5
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	13,835	14,087	14,313	14,518	14,431	14,169	14,514	14,650	14,447	14,556	14,745	14,708	
531	Dept. stores (incl. leased depts.) ¹	14,235	14,435	14,661	14,846	14,776	14,642	14,870	15,048	14,799	14,912	15,094	15,056	
531 pt.	Conventional dept. stores ¹	4,152	4,217	4,288	4,318	4,281	4,200	4,298	4,320	4,206	4,235	4,196	4,152	
531 pt.	Discount dept. stores ¹	7,249	7,397	7,484	7,617	7,617	7,571	7,681	7,814	7,730	7,799	7,946	8,029	
531 pt.	National chain dept. stores ¹	2,834	2,821	2,889	2,911	2,878	2,871	2,891	2,914	2,863	2,878	2,952	2,875	
533	Variety stores	666	668	687	680	687	683	701	700	702	683	726	734	
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	3,589	3,452	3,720	3,750	3,907	3,916	3,902	3,864	3,859	3,899	3,800	3,875	
54	Food group stores	31,083	30,981	31,329	31,190	31,802	31,523	31,364	31,345	31,157	31,058	31,213	30,824	
541	Grocery stores	29,399	29,287	29,660	29,482	30,068	29,724	29,628	29,637	29,481	29,434	29,597	29,263	
554	Gasoline service stations	12,095	11,541	11,408	11,312	11,434	11,557	11,353	11,455	11,339	11,250	11,326	11,342	
56	Apparel and accessory stores	7,843	8,103	8,144	8,311	8,198	8,180	8,253	8,329	8,075	8,038	8,116	8,019	
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	853	865	868	935	874	862	865	877	875	864	876	863	
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	2,632	2,697	2,721	2,783	2,761	2,759	2,827	2,784	2,765	2,756	2,770	2,678	
566	Shoe stores	1,448	1,513	1,494	1,508	1,452	1,441	1,456	1,470	1,431	1,436	1,437	1,455	
58	Eating and drinking places	15,758	16,025	15,922	16,083	16,260	16,438	16,422	16,343	16,243	16,223	16,317	16,465	
591	Drug and proprietary stores	6,057	6,231	6,309	6,255	6,263	6,271	6,293	6,313	6,337	6,370	6,398	6,501	
592	Liquor stores	1,977	1,957	1,943	1,909	1,890	1,888	1,908	1,907	1,854	1,830	1,820	1,692	
5961	Total mail order	2,339	2,381	2,360	2,402	2,474	2,511	2,626	2,644	2,712	2,571	2,421	2,512	
53,56, 57,594	GAF, total ³	38,965	39,629	40,298	40,695	40,849	40,496	40,980	41,114	40,720	40,739	40,755	40,654	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales by Kinds of Business, Unadjusted and Adjusted: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1990											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Adjusted⁴													
	Retail sales, total	153,900	152,668	153,014	152,551	152,136	153,185	154,126	154,829	155,422	155,511	155,516	153,238
	Total (excl. automotive dealers) ..	118,985	120,223	120,812	120,180	120,069	121,199	121,484	122,526	123,297	123,254	123,766	122,363
	Durable goods, total	58,617	56,701	56,268	55,998	55,555	55,359	56,106	55,702	55,452	55,574	54,941	53,544
52	Building materials group stores	7,949	8,141	8,075	7,849	7,797	8,084	8,043	7,964	7,830	7,766	7,856	7,437
521,3	Building materials, supply stores	5,937	6,097	6,014	5,926	5,860	5,879	5,953	5,915	5,799	5,712	5,748	5,590
525	Hardware stores	1,050	1,061	1,076	1,048	1,043	1,063	1,062	1,012	1,048	1,031	1,038	1,012
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	34,915	32,445	32,202	32,371	32,067	31,986	32,642	32,303	32,125	32,257	31,750	30,875
551,2,5, 6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	32,274	29,802	29,543	29,784	29,500	29,392	30,086	29,755	29,589	29,721	29,230	28,345
553	Auto and home supply stores	2,641	2,643	2,659	2,587	2,567	2,594	2,556	2,548	2,536	2,536	2,520	2,530
57	Furniture group stores	7,854	7,784	7,770	7,722	7,787	7,601	7,579	7,533	7,638	7,626	7,485	7,362
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	4,440	4,317	4,319	4,263	4,245	4,189	4,177	4,140	4,199	4,170	4,103	4,028
5722,31, 34	Household appliance, electronics stores	2,757	2,794	2,785	2,782	2,887	2,769	2,744	2,729	2,773	2,777	2,705	2,660
	Nondurable goods, total	95,283	95,967	96,746	96,553	96,581	97,826	98,020	99,127	99,970	99,937	100,575	99,694
53	General merchandise group stores	17,754	17,841	18,103	17,720	17,763	18,053	18,086	17,994	18,036	18,007	18,216	18,168
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	13,662	13,712	14,041	13,673	13,678	13,929	13,924	13,838	13,834	13,791	13,942	13,913
531	Dept. stores (incl. leased depts.) ¹	14,100	14,166	14,362	14,044	14,041	14,426	14,324	14,261	14,263	14,189	14,352	14,312
531 pt.	Conventional dept. stores ¹	4,298	4,326	4,374	4,280	4,304	4,365	4,333	4,245	4,215	4,169	4,248	4,206
531 pt.	Discount dept. stores ¹	6,864	6,860	6,995	6,893	6,787	7,051	7,022	7,088	7,095	7,123	7,278	7,206
531 pt.	National chain dept. stores ¹	2,938	2,980	2,993	2,871	2,950	3,010	2,969	2,928	2,953	2,897	2,826	2,900
533	Variety stores	702	695	679	700	683	697	697	706	700	701	697	679
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	3,390	3,434	3,383	3,347	3,402	3,427	3,465	3,450	3,502	3,515	3,577	3,576
54	Food group stores	29,758	30,306	30,564	30,443	30,441	30,875	30,705	30,994	31,211	31,024	31,271	31,051
541	Grocery stores	28,065	28,609	28,836	28,751	28,781	29,220	29,015	29,303	29,534	29,368	29,611	29,426
554	Gasoline service stations	10,789	10,819	10,866	10,874	10,800	10,939	10,936	11,795	12,431	12,745	12,875	12,477
56	Apparel and accessory stores	7,955	7,910	8,013	7,919	8,044	8,159	8,156	8,029	8,007	7,926	7,883	7,890
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	917	864	890	855	887	889	883	846	861	878	847	866
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	2,778	2,732	2,782	2,781	2,756	2,858	2,837	2,728	2,709	2,676	2,667	2,626
566	Shoe stores	1,492	1,478	1,509	1,491	1,482	1,498	1,541	1,511	1,505	1,489	1,514	1,524
58	Eating and drinking places	15,449	15,570	15,747	15,889	15,800	15,964	16,133	16,089	16,039	15,955	15,891	15,771
591	Drug and proprietary stores	5,705	5,608	5,586	5,748	5,783	5,840	5,923	5,999	6,033	6,085	6,171	6,086
592	Liquor stores	1,716	1,735	1,747	1,771	1,755	1,793	1,815	1,834	1,845	1,859	1,874	1,930
5961	Total mail order	2,244	2,246	2,212	2,200	2,211	2,219	2,196	2,198	2,217	2,195	2,217	2,215
53,56, 57,594	GAF, total³	39,408	39,354	39,704	39,073	39,329	39,493	39,574	39,223	39,444	39,346	39,225	39,138

See note
5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Estimated Monthly Retail Sales by Kinds of Business, Unadjusted and Adjusted: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.**

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1989												
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Adjusted⁴														
	Retail sales, total	143,839	141,914	142,727	145,396	146,366	146,410	147,142	149,444	149,298	147,648	148,939	149,324	
	Total (excl. automotive dealers) ..	111,802	110,726	111,160	113,113	114,164	114,435	114,657	115,132	115,869	115,995	116,983	117,917	
	Durable goods, total	54,492	53,161	53,214	54,541	54,711	54,506	55,141	57,234	56,278	54,483	55,288	54,500	
52	Building materials group stores	7,821	7,520	7,315	7,689	7,706	7,642	7,746	7,840	7,737	7,755	7,905	7,844	
521,3	Building materials, supply stores ..	5,826	5,546	5,360	5,598	5,618	5,575	5,617	5,654	5,617	5,679	5,780	5,772	
525	Hardware stores	1,037	1,024	1,012	1,035	1,059	1,060	1,066	1,085	1,069	1,075	1,069	1,055	
55 excl.	Automotive dealers	32,037	31,188	31,567	32,283	32,202	31,975	32,485	34,312	33,429	31,653	31,956	31,407	
551,2,5,	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	29,639	28,837	29,194	29,866	29,779	29,586	30,048	31,831	30,868	29,114	29,364	28,786	
6,7,9														
553	Auto and home supply stores	2,398	2,351	2,373	2,417	2,423	2,389	2,437	2,481	2,561	2,539	2,592	2,621	
57	Furniture group stores	7,708	7,534	7,450	7,550	7,597	7,692	7,552	7,693	7,677	7,685	7,754	7,604	
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	4,407	4,260	4,195	4,266	4,251	4,264	4,237	4,329	4,258	4,275	4,361	4,228	
5722,31,														
34	Household appliance, electronics stores	2,688	2,669	2,666	2,696	2,750	2,830	2,708	2,737	2,744	2,762	2,731	2,762	
	Nondurable goods, total	89,347	88,753	89,513	90,855	91,655	91,904	92,001	92,210	93,020	93,165	93,651	94,824	
53	General merchandise group stores	16,838	16,274	16,585	16,932	16,870	17,044	17,106	17,159	17,555	17,537	17,621	17,785	See note 5
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	13,155	12,682	12,931	13,255	13,142	13,294	13,334	13,379	13,630	13,590	13,595	13,768	
531	Dept. stores (incl. leased depts.) ¹	13,471	13,055	13,388	13,555	13,567	13,675	13,717	13,743	14,014	13,915	13,990	14,079	
531 pt.	Conventional dept. stores ¹	4,273	4,227	4,195	4,257	4,247	4,229	4,240	4,243	4,377	4,279	4,313	4,333	
531 pt.	Discount dept. stores ¹	6,188	5,849	6,157	6,281	6,335	6,425	6,512	6,501	6,670	6,646	6,697	6,803	
531 pt.	National chain dept. stores ¹	3,010	2,979	3,036	3,017	2,985	3,021	2,965	2,999	2,967	2,990	2,980	2,943	
533	Variety stores	660	617	623	614	638	635	651	649	671	695	701	706	
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	3,023	2,975	3,031	3,063	3,090	3,115	3,121	3,131	3,254	3,252	3,325	3,311	
54	Food group stores	28,181	28,382	28,328	28,510	28,873	28,909	28,994	29,132	29,332	29,344	29,471	29,832	
541	Grocery stores	26,627	26,810	26,731	26,952	27,296	27,341	27,430	27,558	27,768	27,748	27,840	28,208	
554	Gasoline service stations	9,455	9,709	9,969	10,424	10,622	10,609	10,526	10,240	10,146	10,264	10,303	10,496	
56	Apparel and accessory stores	7,695	7,344	7,330	7,627	7,626	7,660	7,638	7,707	7,761	7,845	7,916	7,898	
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	888	857	850	875	866	869	864	870	876	882	895	895	
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	2,785	2,635	2,622	2,670	2,644	2,654	2,639	2,689	2,675	2,734	2,726	2,751	
566	Shoe stores	1,429	1,330	1,353	1,459	1,470	1,467	1,446	1,434	1,464	1,464	1,494	1,460	
58	Eating and drinking places	14,752	14,457	14,633	14,608	14,744	14,740	14,823	14,882	15,083	15,091	15,134	14,981	
591	Drug and proprietary stores	5,090	5,185	5,119	5,082	5,159	5,178	5,264	5,333	5,434	5,436	5,550	5,579	
592	Liquor stores	1,664	1,629	1,647	1,665	1,697	1,684	1,685	1,684	1,703	1,688	1,687	1,672	
5961	Total mail order	2,186	2,042	2,093	2,175	2,190	2,206	2,237	2,235	2,210	2,169	2,226	2,306	
53,56, 57,594	GAF, total³	37,631	36,427	36,662	37,422	37,456	37,789	37,669	38,091	38,585	38,610	38,972	38,945	

¹Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

²Includes establishments primarily selling merchandise through coin-operated vending machines, by house-to-house canvass, or from mail order.

³GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, miscellaneous shopping goods stores).

⁴Data adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes.

⁵For yearly totals, refer to unadjusted section.

Note: U.S. and group totals include kinds of business not shown.

**Table 2. Estimated End-of-Month Retail Inventories and Inventories/Sales Ratios by Kinds of Business:
January 1989 to December 1998**

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1998											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Unadjusted													
	Retail Inventories, total	322,248	327,124	334,614	337,793	330,027	325,913	322,405	324,047	337,131	356,274	364,018	335,457
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	226,235	229,432	235,608	238,036	234,597	234,674	238,116	241,481	250,661	264,860	267,998	235,966
	Durable goods, total	174,051	177,178	180,866	183,034	177,470	173,201	166,781	165,726	171,303	181,590	187,832	181,797
52	Building materials group stores	24,512	25,787	26,703	27,051	26,488	26,298	25,897	26,046	25,990	26,246	26,127	26,058
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	96,013	97,692	99,006	99,757	95,430	91,239	84,289	82,566	86,470	91,414	96,020	99,491
57	Furniture group stores	23,196	23,172	23,785	24,319	23,859	23,767	24,294	24,472	25,403	27,779	28,843	25,021
	Nondurable goods, total	148,197	149,946	153,748	154,759	152,557	152,712	155,624	158,321	165,828	174,684	176,186	153,660
53	General merchandise group stores	54,913	56,347	57,852	58,433	57,044	56,705	57,918	59,402	64,172	70,034	71,165	55,921
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	45,167	46,463	47,756	48,156	46,936	46,514	47,715	48,892	52,568	57,310	58,336	45,495
54	Food group stores	29,276	28,665	29,125	29,152	28,882	29,123	29,138	28,892	29,241	30,385	31,190	30,231
56	Apparel and accessory stores	22,246	23,281	24,566	24,644	24,196	24,367	25,634	26,364	27,730	28,906	28,529	23,320
Adjusted¹													
	Retail Inventories, total	331,323	331,938	334,282	335,270	332,728	333,042	332,881	333,432	335,965	335,911	338,348	340,760
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	237,593	238,428	240,336	240,948	239,570	242,027	242,345	242,755	242,999	242,302	243,305	244,795
	Durable goods, total	175,817	176,200	177,346	177,584	175,598	174,303	174,098	174,523	176,303	177,448	179,586	181,070
52	Building materials group stores	25,401	25,943	25,800	25,812	25,518	25,757	25,897	26,496	26,386	26,511	26,769	27,031
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	93,730	93,510	93,946	94,322	93,158	91,015	90,536	90,677	92,966	93,609	95,043	95,965
57	Furniture group stores	24,213	24,340	24,750	24,892	24,648	24,783	25,071	24,870	24,735	24,847	25,257	25,376
	Nondurable goods, total	155,506	155,738	156,936	157,686	157,130	158,739	158,783	158,909	159,662	158,463	158,762	159,690
53	General merchandise group stores	59,730	59,790	59,845	59,867	59,139	59,766	59,932	59,970	60,433	60,569	60,430	60,217
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	49,148	49,219	49,284	49,239	48,588	49,117	49,446	49,386	49,639	49,619	49,437	49,078
54	Food group stores	29,071	29,034	29,240	29,496	29,379	29,616	29,670	29,572	29,524	29,521	29,648	29,494
56	Apparel and accessory stores	24,773	24,636	24,991	25,147	25,178	25,569	25,583	25,596	25,868	25,490	25,225	25,598
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Unadjusted													
	Retail trade, total	1.62	1.68	1.52	1.50	1.40	1.39	1.39	1.40	1.52	1.52	1.56	1.19
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.50	1.57	1.45	1.43	1.33	1.37	1.36	1.38	1.50	1.49	1.47	1.03
	Durable goods, total	2.17	2.20	1.94	1.92	1.77	1.67	1.70	1.73	1.83	1.87	2.05	1.68
52	Building materials group stores	2.45	2.58	2.11	1.83	1.65	1.64	1.68	1.82	1.79	1.77	1.98	1.95
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.00	1.99	1.70	1.71	1.57	1.44	1.45	1.47	1.57	1.58	1.88	1.87
57	Furniture group stores	1.99	2.11	2.01	2.16	2.03	1.98	1.96	1.91	2.07	2.20	2.06	1.35
	Nondurable goods, total	1.25	1.31	1.21	1.20	1.12	1.16	1.16	1.17	1.29	1.27	1.25	0.89
53	General merchandise group stores	2.50	2.47	2.23	2.13	1.95	2.05	2.13	2.06	2.42	2.39	2.05	1.12
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.65	2.59	2.35	2.23	2.04	2.16	2.25	2.14	2.54	2.51	2.11	1.13
54	Food group stores	0.83	0.89	0.83	0.82	0.77	0.80	0.76	0.77	0.81	0.81	0.86	0.74
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.91	2.93	2.57	2.37	2.32	2.48	2.53	2.31	2.84	2.67	2.40	1.36
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Adjusted¹													
	Retail trade, total	1.49	1.48	1.49	1.48	1.46	1.45	1.46	1.46	1.47	1.45	1.44	1.44
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.41	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.39	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.38	1.38	1.38
	Durable goods, total	1.90	1.90	1.91	1.89	1.85	1.82	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.83	1.84	1.82
52	Building materials group stores	1.91	1.95	1.91	1.90	1.85	1.90	1.88	1.94	1.91	1.89	1.87	1.85
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1.73	1.72	1.73	1.70	1.66	1.60	1.66	1.66	1.68	1.65	1.65	1.63
57	Furniture group stores	1.95	1.95	2.00	2.01	1.98	1.97	1.97	1.95	1.94	1.94	1.95	1.93
	Nondurable goods, total	1.19	1.18	1.19	1.19	1.18	1.19	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.16
53	General merchandise group stores	2.11	2.09	2.09	2.06	2.02	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.04	2.00	2.00
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.20	2.17	2.19	2.15	2.10	2.14	2.15	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.09	2.07
54	Food group stores	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.79
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.39	2.35	2.37	2.36	2.37	2.42	2.39	2.41	2.50	2.41	2.36	2.39

¹See footnote at end of table.

Table 2. Estimated End-of-Month Retail Inventories and Inventories/Sales Ratios by Kinds of Business: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1994											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Unadjusted													
	Retail Inventories, total	260,593	265,120	270,740	273,004	275,688	276,640	272,770	278,880	290,359	307,556	314,698	289,601
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	189,915	192,938	197,398	199,542	200,999	201,939	203,707	208,554	217,509	232,102	235,192	206,906
	Durable goods, total	134,349	136,788	139,061	140,522	142,737	143,263	138,063	140,821	145,384	152,890	158,396	153,821
52	Building materials group stores	18,660	19,510	20,309	20,680	21,093	20,727	20,451	20,514	20,205	20,587	20,690	20,538
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	70,678	72,182	73,342	73,462	74,689	74,701	69,063	70,326	72,850	75,454	79,506	82,695
57	Furniture group stores	19,910	19,562	19,448	20,103	20,396	20,599	20,433	21,316	22,816	25,225	26,069	23,032
	Nondurable goods, total	126,244	128,332	131,679	132,482	132,951	133,377	134,707	138,059	144,975	154,666	156,302	135,780
53	General merchandise group stores	46,721	48,386	50,227	51,071	51,714	51,684	51,661	53,365	57,605	62,914	64,263	51,211
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	36,722	38,190	39,495	40,317	40,812	40,729	40,869	42,230	45,620	49,687	50,741	40,441
54	Food group stores	26,260	25,818	26,247	25,961	25,879	26,154	26,107	25,916	26,486	27,473	27,976	27,453
56	Apparel and accessory stores	19,900	20,950	21,743	22,102	21,811	21,686	22,766	23,686	24,702	26,326	26,321	21,353
Adjusted¹													
	Retail Inventories, total	268,502	270,071	271,228	272,709	277,498	281,923	280,655	286,098	289,607	290,293	292,164	294,052
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	199,026	200,426	201,163	202,286	205,133	208,195	207,615	209,498	211,033	212,435	213,378	214,155
	Durable goods, total	135,835	136,523	136,942	137,970	140,756	143,360	143,118	147,572	149,862	150,060	151,580	153,019
52	Building materials group stores	19,257	19,530	19,622	19,866	20,165	20,301	20,451	20,805	20,660	20,858	21,199	21,305
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	69,476	69,645	70,065	70,423	72,365	73,728	73,040	76,600	78,574	77,858	78,786	79,897
57	Furniture group stores	20,484	20,527	20,070	20,703	21,070	21,368	21,284	21,729	22,195	22,828	23,009	22,963
	Nondurable goods, total	132,667	133,548	134,286	134,739	136,742	138,563	137,537	138,526	139,745	140,233	140,584	141,033
53	General merchandise group stores	50,689	51,467	51,636	52,025	53,451	54,467	53,454	53,882	54,403	54,485	54,804	55,216
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	39,785	40,456	40,549	40,973	42,118	43,008	42,351	42,657	43,160	43,131	43,257	43,673
54	Food group stores	26,134	26,128	26,372	26,192	26,228	26,471	26,570	26,589	26,742	26,728	26,740	26,779
56	Apparel and accessory stores	22,260	22,146	22,187	22,439	22,579	22,803	22,721	22,841	23,108	23,297	23,293	23,362
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Unadjusted													
	Retail trade, total	1.67	1.69	1.46	1.49	1.47	1.45	1.46	1.43	1.55	1.61	1.61	1.23
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.58	1.62	1.43	1.46	1.41	1.41	1.43	1.41	1.53	1.59	1.53	1.07
	Durable goods, total	2.31	2.25	1.86	1.89	1.87	1.81	1.86	1.79	1.92	2.03	2.12	1.80
52	Building materials group stores	2.55	2.71	2.08	1.87	1.72	1.73	1.83	1.73	1.76	1.84	1.96	2.04
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.00	1.90	1.55	1.59	1.63	1.56	1.56	1.50	1.62	1.69	1.88	2.01
57	Furniture group stores	2.43	2.43	2.11	2.27	2.24	2.16	2.15	2.11	2.31	2.48	2.27	1.52
	Nondurable goods, total	1.29	1.33	1.19	1.22	1.19	1.19	1.20	1.19	1.30	1.34	1.29	0.91
53	General merchandise group stores	2.76	2.76	2.34	2.41	2.33	2.31	2.40	2.30	2.65	2.65	2.26	1.22
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.89	2.89	2.40	2.49	2.41	2.38	2.48	2.35	2.72	2.71	2.29	1.22
54	Food group stores	0.84	0.88	0.80	0.81	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	0.81	0.84	0.85	0.75
56	Apparel and accessory stores	3.13	3.13	2.46	2.54	2.53	2.52	2.68	2.42	2.76	2.81	2.49	1.36
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Adjusted¹													
	Retail trade, total	1.50	1.48	1.47	1.47	1.51	1.51	1.51	1.51	1.52	1.50	1.51	1.52
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.44	1.43	1.42	1.43	1.45	1.46	1.45	1.44	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
	Durable goods, total	1.96	1.93	1.89	1.89	1.95	1.96	1.96	1.97	1.98	1.93	1.95	1.98
52	Building materials group stores	1.95	2.02	1.92	1.93	1.95	1.96	1.96	1.93	1.90	1.92	1.93	1.96
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1.67	1.64	1.61	1.61	1.70	1.71	1.71	1.74	1.77	1.68	1.70	1.74
57	Furniture group stores	2.29	2.20	2.11	2.17	2.17	2.16	2.15	2.15	2.18	2.20	2.20	2.18
	Nondurable goods, total	1.21	1.20	1.19	1.20	1.22	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22
53	General merchandise group stores	2.23	2.24	2.22	2.25	2.31	2.33	2.29	2.28	2.29	2.27	2.28	2.28
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.29	2.30	2.27	2.32	2.38	2.39	2.35	2.34	2.35	2.32	2.32	2.33
54	Food group stores	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.81	0.80	0.80	0.81	0.80	0.80	0.81	0.80	0.81
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.51	2.44	2.41	2.46	2.49	2.51	2.47	2.46	2.52	2.48	2.46	2.49

See footnote at end of table.

**Table 2. Estimated End-of-Month Retail Inventories and Inventories/Sales Ratios by Kinds of Business:
January 1989 to December 1998—Con.**

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1993											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Unadjusted													
	Retail Inventories, total	246,478	251,676	259,609	260,756	259,005	256,748	254,843	254,999	263,860	280,388	288,071	265,058
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	180,934	183,514	189,253	190,764	189,746	188,301	191,550	194,055	202,131	214,908	218,435	192,881
	Durable goods, total	122,495	125,792	129,573	129,844	129,805	128,841	124,225	122,114	125,241	133,082	138,770	135,843
52	Building materials group stores	17,041	17,762	18,449	18,487	18,726	18,390	18,102	17,836	17,799	18,230	18,259	18,215
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	65,544	68,162	70,356	69,992	69,259	68,447	63,293	60,944	61,729	65,480	69,636	72,177
57	Furniture group stores	17,438	16,933	17,497	17,625	17,680	18,051	18,315	18,718	19,784	21,150	22,181	20,374
	Nondurable goods, total	123,983	125,884	130,036	130,912	129,200	127,907	130,618	132,885	138,619	147,306	149,301	129,215
53	General merchandise group stores	45,765	47,205	50,073	50,826	50,044	48,785	49,848	51,337	54,959	60,090	61,465	48,449
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	35,931	37,205	39,398	39,781	39,438	38,339	39,168	40,377	43,125	46,924	48,047	38,009
54	Food group stores	25,831	25,522	25,850	25,933	25,688	25,702	25,450	25,224	25,707	26,708	27,127	26,654
56	Apparel and accessory stores	20,191	21,245	21,996	22,171	21,757	21,508	22,888	23,544	24,352	25,423	25,435	20,522
Adjusted¹													
	Retail Inventories, total	254,183	256,675	259,948	260,590	260,725	261,609	261,551	261,026	262,662	264,502	267,439	269,303
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	189,572	190,599	192,567	193,074	193,548	194,040	195,140	194,815	196,271	197,022	198,555	199,573
	Durable goods, total	123,837	125,679	127,521	127,768	127,972	128,772	128,259	127,785	128,877	130,781	132,966	135,088
52	Building materials group stores	17,568	17,744	17,808	17,776	17,885	17,994	18,102	18,053	18,199	18,545	18,746	18,895
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	64,611	66,076	67,381	67,516	67,177	67,569	66,411	66,211	66,391	67,480	68,884	69,730
57	Furniture group stores	17,903	17,768	17,964	18,077	18,227	18,667	19,058	19,100	19,283	19,262	19,716	20,232
	Nondurable goods, total	130,346	130,996	132,427	132,822	132,753	132,837	133,292	133,241	133,785	133,721	134,473	134,215
53	General merchandise group stores	49,634	50,211	51,301	51,592	51,736	51,454	51,523	51,800	51,958	52,060	52,564	52,305
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	38,886	39,412	40,284	40,264	40,700	40,527	40,547	40,785	40,877	40,768	41,066	41,091
54	Food group stores	25,751	25,824	25,975	26,142	25,929	25,965	25,877	25,880	25,995	26,004	25,977	26,043
56	Apparel and accessory stores	22,585	22,410	22,491	22,463	22,476	22,592	22,820	22,638	22,780	22,598	22,589	22,453
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Unadjusted													
	Retail trade, total	1.67	1.74	1.58	1.53	1.47	1.46	1.43	1.44	1.54	1.59	1.59	1.21
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.55	1.63	1.50	1.46	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.42	1.53	1.56	1.52	1.06
	Durable goods, total	2.32	2.40	2.10	1.99	1.93	1.85	1.80	1.79	1.90	2.01	2.09	1.75
52	Building materials group stores	2.57	2.67	2.24	1.92	1.75	1.74	1.79	1.79	1.81	1.84	1.94	1.94
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.10	2.15	1.84	1.75	1.72	1.63	1.51	1.51	1.58	1.67	1.84	1.90
57	Furniture group stores	2.22	2.33	2.15	2.21	2.16	2.13	2.10	2.15	2.30	2.39	2.24	1.58
	Nondurable goods, total	1.30	1.36	1.27	1.25	1.19	1.21	1.20	1.22	1.31	1.33	1.30	0.91
53	General merchandise group stores	2.86	2.90	2.64	2.53	2.34	2.39	2.43	2.37	2.69	2.68	2.31	1.23
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	3.04	3.10	2.78	2.63	2.45	2.51	2.56	2.45	2.79	2.75	2.36	1.24
54	Food group stores	0.84	0.89	0.83	0.82	0.79	0.80	0.76	0.79	0.82	0.83	0.86	0.75
56	Apparel and accessory stores	3.04	3.29	2.81	2.52	2.48	2.59	2.70	2.53	2.77	2.79	2.50	1.38
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Adjusted¹													
	Retail trade, total	1.50	1.52	1.56	1.53	1.52	1.52	1.50	1.49	1.50	1.49	1.49	1.49
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.43	1.43	1.47	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.43	1.44	1.44
	Durable goods, total	1.98	2.06	2.10	2.02	1.99	1.99	1.95	1.93	1.95	1.93	1.92	1.92
52	Building materials group stores	1.99	2.00	2.05	2.00	1.95	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.95	1.93	1.92	1.86
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1.78	1.86	1.91	1.82	1.78	1.79	1.71	1.70	1.72	1.68	1.66	1.66
57	Furniture group stores	2.09	2.12	2.15	2.12	2.12	2.14	2.16	2.15	2.15	2.14	2.17	2.21
	Nondurable goods, total	1.22	1.22	1.25	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22
53	General merchandise group stores	2.31	2.33	2.45	2.38	2.37	2.37	2.32	2.33	2.31	2.31	2.32	2.32
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.40	2.44	2.57	2.47	2.47	2.47	2.42	2.43	2.41	2.37	2.39	2.39
54	Food group stores	0.81	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.46	2.54	2.67	2.51	2.51	2.52	2.53	2.52	2.52	2.49	2.48	2.50

See footnote at end of table.

Table 2. Estimated End-of-Month Retail Inventories and Inventories/Sales Ratios by Kinds of Business: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1992											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Unadjusted													
	Retail Inventories, total	233,647	236,751	241,971	246,082	243,613	242,094	243,573	242,504	248,930	262,811	268,234	248,198
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	173,209	174,989	179,172	181,981	179,897	179,107	182,939	184,276	190,952	202,408	204,696	181,697
	Durable goods, total	115,474	117,031	119,905	122,324	122,054	120,925	118,755	116,394	117,293	122,812	126,621	124,046
52	Building materials group stores	16,165	17,019	17,617	18,166	18,119	17,622	17,456	17,182	17,062	17,211	16,882	16,596
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	60,438	61,762	62,799	64,101	63,716	62,987	60,634	58,228	57,978	60,403	63,538	66,501
57	Furniture group stores	17,026	16,586	17,275	17,305	17,290	17,090	17,027	17,147	17,762	18,971	19,611	18,077
	Nondurable goods, total	118,173	119,720	122,066	123,758	121,559	121,169	124,818	126,110	131,637	139,999	141,613	124,152
53	General merchandise group stores	42,159	42,684	44,670	45,935	44,450	44,271	46,073	46,925	50,662	55,450	56,201	44,938
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	33,343	33,848	35,506	36,379	35,220	34,884	36,275	36,986	39,611	43,330	43,942	35,104
54	Food group stores	25,460	25,149	25,124	25,323	25,398	25,288	25,194	24,748	25,250	26,399	26,855	26,275
56	Apparel and accessory stores	18,189	19,538	20,078	20,512	20,163	19,848	21,374	22,344	22,790	24,074	24,462	20,336
Adjusted¹													
	Retail Inventories, total	240,895	241,490	242,384	246,155	245,208	246,419	249,277	247,998	247,951	248,340	249,362	252,185
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	181,265	181,494	182,037	183,945	183,220	184,224	186,118	184,908	185,722	186,225	186,728	188,051
	Durable goods, total	116,818	117,110	118,284	120,838	120,474	120,779	122,048	121,626	120,655	120,801	121,408	123,152
52	Building materials group stores	16,682	16,985	16,988	17,484	17,289	17,192	17,439	17,391	17,446	17,562	17,386	17,234
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	59,630	59,996	60,347	62,210	61,988	62,195	63,159	63,090	62,229	62,115	62,634	64,134
57	Furniture group stores	17,463	17,349	17,664	17,712	17,752	17,619	17,645	17,497	17,363	17,389	17,604	17,934
	Nondurable goods, total	124,077	124,380	124,100	125,317	124,734	125,640	127,229	126,372	127,296	127,539	127,954	129,033
53	General merchandise group stores	45,792	45,340	45,595	46,463	45,972	46,715	47,542	47,316	47,962	48,114	48,199	48,630
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	36,125	35,818	36,157	36,672	36,347	36,875	37,513	37,397	37,653	37,711	37,622	38,033
54	Food group stores	25,407	25,472	25,272	25,526	25,560	25,478	25,593	25,370	25,548	25,731	25,736	25,738
56	Apparel and accessory stores	20,346	20,566	20,551	20,761	20,787	20,805	21,289	21,443	21,319	21,495	21,822	22,249
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Unadjusted													
	Retail trade, total	1.65	1.66	1.57	1.56	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.47	1.56	1.56	1.61	1.22
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.54	1.56	1.50	1.48	1.39	1.42	1.43	1.41	1.53	1.53	1.52	1.06
	Durable goods, total	2.36	2.31	2.13	2.09	2.02	1.93	1.92	1.96	1.98	2.02	2.24	1.82
52	Building materials group stores	2.57	2.63	2.28	2.05	1.85	1.82	1.88	1.95	1.91	1.90	2.16	2.04
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.09	2.03	1.84	1.82	1.79	1.68	1.64	1.69	1.66	1.69	2.02	2.08
57	Furniture group stores	2.34	2.31	2.29	2.35	2.28	2.19	2.13	2.16	2.28	2.33	2.25	1.55
	Nondurable goods, total	1.28	1.31	1.25	1.24	1.16	1.20	1.21	1.19	1.31	1.30	1.29	0.92
53	General merchandise group stores	2.83	2.69	2.51	2.46	2.23	2.37	2.50	2.30	2.72	2.66	2.25	1.21
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	3.08	2.86	2.62	2.57	2.34	2.48	2.63	2.38	2.82	2.75	2.30	1.22
54	Food group stores	0.84	0.86	0.83	0.82	0.79	0.81	0.77	0.77	0.82	0.83	0.87	0.77
56	Apparel and accessory stores	3.00	3.03	2.68	2.45	2.42	2.47	2.66	2.39	2.69	2.66	2.51	1.38
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Adjusted¹													
	Retail trade, total	1.52	1.51	1.53	1.54	1.53	1.53	1.54	1.53	1.51	1.49	1.50	1.50
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.44	1.43	1.44	1.45	1.44	1.45	1.46	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.43	1.42
	Durable goods, total	2.08	2.04	2.09	2.12	2.10	2.08	2.08	2.09	2.03	1.99	2.01	2.00
52	Building materials group stores	2.06	2.01	2.03	2.12	2.07	2.07	2.09	2.10	2.05	2.05	2.08	1.97
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1.84	1.81	1.86	1.89	1.88	1.84	1.86	1.88	1.80	1.75	1.77	1.80
57	Furniture group stores	2.22	2.20	2.24	2.25	2.26	2.21	2.19	2.17	2.14	2.13	2.14	2.13
	Nondurable goods, total	1.21	1.21	1.22	1.22	1.21	1.22	1.23	1.21	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.21
53	General merchandise group stores	2.28	2.23	2.29	2.32	2.28	2.32	2.35	2.30	2.31	2.30	2.30	2.29
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.42	2.32	2.40	2.42	2.37	2.41	2.46	2.41	2.40	2.38	2.37	2.36
54	Food group stores	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.47	2.44	2.48	2.47	2.45	2.40	2.47	2.44	2.40	2.42	2.47	2.47

See footnote at end of table.

Table 2. Estimated End-of-Month Retail Inventories and Inventories/Sales Ratios by Kinds of Business: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1991											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Unadjusted													
	Retail Inventories, total	235,187	235,783	235,151	235,681	234,706	231,666	231,599	232,756	240,556	254,608	258,609	239,478
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	170,218	171,644	173,788	175,090	174,116	172,729	174,666	177,779	184,166	194,666	196,683	176,344
	Durable goods, total	121,234	120,328	117,815	117,829	117,974	115,812	113,629	112,168	115,497	120,924	123,344	119,977
52	Building materials group stores	16,414	16,706	17,246	16,976	17,119	16,906	16,439	16,355	16,202	16,055	16,114	16,099
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	64,969	64,139	61,363	60,591	60,590	58,937	56,933	54,977	56,390	59,942	61,926	63,134
57	Furniture group stores	17,235	17,029	17,061	17,561	17,492	17,369	17,275	17,337	18,173	19,298	19,416	17,737
	Nondurable goods, total	113,953	115,455	117,336	117,852	116,732	115,854	117,970	120,588	125,059	133,684	135,265	119,501
53	General merchandise group stores	39,316	40,788	42,155	42,544	41,626	41,164	42,457	43,668	46,558	51,330	51,898	42,168
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	31,051	31,954	33,225	33,641	32,808	32,246	33,166	34,058	36,424	40,422	41,028	33,257
54	Food group stores	25,331	24,877	25,205	25,071	25,320	25,344	25,077	24,885	25,091	26,154	26,702	26,045
56	Apparel and accessory stores	17,648	18,833	19,267	19,502	19,218	19,035	19,684	20,644	21,409	22,205	22,372	18,500
Adjusted¹													
	Retail Inventories, total	242,227	240,314	235,626	235,797	236,189	235,478	236,376	237,695	239,688	241,156	241,043	243,389
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	178,182	177,946	176,433	176,726	177,116	177,313	177,521	178,220	179,307	179,647	180,108	182,508
	Durable goods, total	122,442	120,453	116,430	116,714	116,594	115,594	116,268	116,956	118,557	119,002	118,344	119,189
52	Building materials group stores	16,939	16,673	16,615	16,339	16,351	16,446	16,423	16,537	16,550	16,450	16,630	16,718
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	64,045	62,368	59,193	59,071	59,073	58,165	58,855	59,475	60,381	61,509	60,935	60,881
57	Furniture group stores	17,677	17,776	17,409	17,901	17,885	17,851	17,846	17,655	17,799	17,786	17,603	17,649
	Nondurable goods, total	119,785	119,861	119,196	119,083	119,595	119,884	120,108	120,739	121,131	122,154	122,699	124,200
53	General merchandise group stores	42,806	43,241	42,918	42,864	43,072	43,399	43,750	43,987	44,165	44,590	44,647	45,764
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	33,714	33,742	33,731	33,742	33,858	34,051	34,298	34,472	34,756	35,211	35,187	36,110
54	Food group stores	25,355	25,221	25,374	25,269	25,430	25,494	25,430	25,460	25,372	25,474	25,593	25,580
56	Apparel and accessory stores	19,763	19,783	19,721	19,739	19,751	19,911	19,567	19,755	20,027	19,879	20,047	20,263
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Unadjusted													
	Retail trade, total	1.76	1.80	1.54	1.56	1.44	1.48	1.47	1.43	1.61	1.64	1.63	1.30
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.57	1.65	1.45	1.48	1.36	1.40	1.41	1.37	1.56	1.58	1.51	1.12
	Durable goods, total	2.72	2.62	2.20	2.12	1.99	2.03	1.97	1.97	2.15	2.22	2.36	2.03
52	Building materials group stores	2.90	2.94	2.53	2.01	1.88	1.97	1.90	1.94	2.06	1.97	2.23	2.33
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.53	2.36	1.91	1.83	1.73	1.75	1.67	1.67	1.79	1.91	2.18	2.29
57	Furniture group stores	2.56	2.59	2.33	2.42	2.29	2.32	2.24	2.22	2.49	2.54	2.39	1.75
	Nondurable goods, total	1.28	1.35	1.19	1.23	1.13	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.31	1.33	1.27	0.95
53	General merchandise group stores	3.01	3.04	2.43	2.52	2.21	2.31	2.49	2.26	2.75	2.74	2.23	1.24
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	3.18	3.12	2.48	2.58	2.31	2.41	2.59	2.29	2.83	2.84	2.29	1.27
54	Food group stores	0.85	0.89	0.79	0.84	0.77	0.79	0.78	0.76	0.84	0.85	0.85	0.80
56	Apparel and accessory stores	3.09	3.20	2.39	2.54	2.36	2.49	2.63	2.26	2.79	2.79	2.45	1.43
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Adjusted¹													
	Retail trade, total	1.61	1.57	1.53	1.52	1.52	1.51	1.51	1.53	1.54	1.56	1.55	1.57
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.46	1.45	1.43	1.43	1.42	1.43	1.42	1.43	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.48
	Durable goods, total	2.39	2.24	2.16	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.11	2.17	2.14	2.19	2.18	2.17
52	Building materials group stores	2.34	2.19	2.23	2.10	2.15	2.14	2.12	2.16	2.14	2.15	2.20	2.17
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.22	2.04	1.92	1.90	1.89	1.85	1.85	1.94	1.88	1.97	1.95	1.92
57	Furniture group stores	2.41	2.36	2.29	2.33	2.30	2.31	2.29	2.27	2.31	2.32	2.33	2.33
	Nondurable goods, total	1.20	1.21	1.19	1.19	1.18	1.19	1.18	1.19	1.20	1.22	1.22	1.24
53	General merchandise group stores	2.37	2.37	2.29	2.26	2.26	2.31	2.29	2.29	2.32	2.33	2.32	2.37
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.44	2.40	2.36	2.32	2.35	2.40	2.36	2.35	2.41	2.42	2.39	2.46
54	Food group stores	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.83
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.52	2.44	2.42	2.38	2.41	2.43	2.37	2.37	2.48	2.47	2.47	2.53

See footnote at end of table.

**Table 2. Estimated End-of-Month Retail Inventories and Inventories/Sales Ratios by Kinds of Business:
January 1989 to December 1998—Con.**

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1990											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Unadjusted													
	Retail Inventories, total	228,052	230,622	235,756	236,364	236,871	235,117	235,414	237,584	242,303	255,422	258,940	236,152
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	165,723	168,028	172,628	174,567	174,389	172,525	174,194	177,061	181,830	191,559	193,182	170,635
	Durable goods, total	117,493	118,567	120,681	120,088	121,372	121,174	119,142	118,876	120,185	125,622	127,923	122,141
52	Building materials group stores	16,600	17,082	17,855	18,093	18,243	17,999	17,228	17,009	16,867	16,532	16,419	16,368
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	62,329	62,594	63,128	61,797	62,482	62,592	61,220	60,523	60,473	63,863	65,758	65,517
57	Furniture group stores	17,149	17,090	17,402	17,443	17,508	17,385	17,317	17,685	18,341	19,281	19,303	17,477
	Nondurable goods, total	110,559	112,055	115,075	116,276	115,499	113,943	116,272	118,708	122,118	129,800	131,017	114,011
53	General merchandise group stores	39,376	40,777	42,273	42,486	41,241	40,295	41,400	42,540	44,877	49,105	49,684	38,969
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	30,947	32,178	33,352	33,633	32,497	31,650	32,485	33,195	34,839	38,476	39,316	30,716
54	Food group stores	23,586	23,331	23,603	23,714	24,146	24,203	24,133	24,192	24,443	25,272	25,742	25,402
56	Apparel and accessory stores	17,541	18,371	19,205	19,680	19,544	19,196	20,369	21,122	21,224	22,313	22,023	17,957
Adjusted¹													
	Retail Inventories, total	235,173	234,830	235,885	236,282	238,144	238,444	239,935	242,922	241,959	242,752	242,187	239,815
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	173,848	174,138	175,061	175,982	177,149	176,789	176,918	177,207	177,062	177,234	177,474	176,708
	Durable goods, total	118,552	118,489	119,126	118,911	119,910	120,711	121,611	124,276	123,679	123,936	123,026	121,194
52	Building materials group stores	17,149	17,065	17,185	17,431	17,457	17,475	17,194	17,163	17,194	16,973	16,979	17,015
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	61,325	60,692	60,824	60,300	60,995	61,655	63,017	65,715	64,897	65,518	64,713	63,107
57	Furniture group stores	17,607	17,784	17,721	17,745	17,847	17,813	17,834	17,973	17,981	17,836	17,661	17,442
	Nondurable goods, total	116,621	116,341	116,759	117,371	118,234	117,733	118,324	118,646	118,280	118,816	119,161	118,621
53	General merchandise group stores	43,041	43,150	42,941	42,660	42,658	42,448	42,608	42,735	42,601	42,745	42,880	42,377
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	33,748	33,943	33,791	33,599	33,502	33,386	33,594	33,564	33,307	33,574	33,777	33,387
54	Food group stores	23,635	23,655	23,733	23,913	24,241	24,294	24,446	24,713	24,707	24,600	24,696	25,038
56	Apparel and accessory stores	19,643	19,297	19,637	19,939	20,045	20,038	20,288	20,212	19,854	20,030	19,787	19,690
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Unadjusted													
	Retail trade, total	1.68	1.77	1.55	1.59	1.50	1.49	1.54	1.47	1.62	1.65	1.63	1.29
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.58	1.65	1.47	1.51	1.42	1.41	1.46	1.40	1.54	1.56	1.49	1.09
	Durable goods, total	2.31	2.45	2.12	2.15	2.01	2.02	2.08	2.01	2.24	2.28	2.40	2.12
52	Building materials group stores	2.66	2.81	2.35	2.21	1.95	1.94	1.96	1.93	2.13	2.00	2.17	2.49
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.02	2.18	1.83	1.84	1.74	1.76	1.79	1.73	1.93	2.00	2.25	2.46
57	Furniture group stores	2.37	2.53	2.29	2.43	2.29	2.30	2.36	2.33	2.53	2.54	2.40	1.79
	Nondurable goods, total	1.30	1.37	1.21	1.25	1.18	1.16	1.21	1.16	1.27	1.30	1.24	0.91
53	General merchandise group stores	3.13	3.14	2.56	2.61	2.37	2.34	2.62	2.37	2.76	2.82	2.24	1.19
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	3.27	3.26	2.58	2.65	2.44	2.39	2.68	2.38	2.78	2.88	2.31	1.21
54	Food group stores	0.83	0.86	0.76	0.80	0.77	0.76	0.77	0.75	0.80	0.83	0.83	0.76
56	Apparel and accessory stores	3.00	3.21	2.50	2.54	2.48	2.47	2.82	2.44	2.76	2.85	2.47	1.40
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Adjusted¹													
	Retail trade, total	1.53	1.54	1.54	1.55	1.57	1.56	1.56	1.57	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.46	1.45	1.45	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	1.45	1.44	1.44	1.43	1.44
	Durable goods, total	2.02	2.09	2.12	2.12	2.16	2.18	2.17	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.24	2.26
52	Building materials group stores	2.16	2.10	2.13	2.22	2.24	2.16	2.14	2.16	2.20	2.19	2.16	2.29
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1.76	1.87	1.89	1.86	1.90	1.93	1.93	2.03	2.02	2.03	2.04	2.04
57	Furniture group stores	2.24	2.28	2.28	2.30	2.29	2.34	2.35	2.39	2.35	2.34	2.36	2.37
	Nondurable goods, total	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.22	1.22	1.20	1.21	1.20	1.18	1.19	1.18	1.19
53	General merchandise group stores	2.42	2.42	2.37	2.41	2.40	2.35	2.36	2.37	2.36	2.37	2.35	2.33
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.47	2.48	2.41	2.46	2.45	2.40	2.41	2.43	2.41	2.43	2.42	2.40
54	Food group stores	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.79	0.80	0.79	0.80	0.80	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.81
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.47	2.44	2.45	2.52	2.49	2.46	2.49	2.52	2.48	2.53	2.51	2.50

See footnote at end of table.

Table 2. Estimated End-of-Month Retail Inventories and Inventories/Sales Ratios by Kinds of Business: January 1989 to December 1998—Con.

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1989											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Unadjusted													
	Retail Inventories, total	214,797	221,238	226,648	229,321	230,974	231,222	230,364	230,421	235,362	247,377	252,876	233,143
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	153,039	156,997	161,373	163,050	164,074	164,056	166,233	170,282	175,761	185,726	188,298	166,707
	Durable goods, total	113,765	116,834	118,985	120,215	121,574	122,066	119,317	116,543	117,241	121,920	125,801	122,220
52	Building materials group stores	15,654	16,437	17,085	17,062	17,336	17,197	16,784	16,652	16,604	16,658	16,583	16,437
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	61,758	64,241	65,275	66,271	66,900	67,166	64,131	60,139	59,601	61,651	64,578	66,436
57	Furniture group stores	16,059	16,000	16,325	16,244	16,352	16,521	16,552	16,927	17,422	18,732	18,956	17,297
	Nondurable goods, total	101,032	104,404	107,663	109,106	109,400	109,156	111,047	113,878	118,121	125,457	127,075	110,923
53	General merchandise group stores	35,253	37,415	39,315	40,162	39,814	39,422	40,541	41,876	44,481	48,637	49,564	39,487
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	26,961	28,714	30,264	31,128	30,928	30,597	31,294	32,239	34,368	37,788	39,052	30,916
54	Food group stores	21,635	21,607	21,891	22,036	22,368	22,528	22,491	22,418	22,816	24,059	24,638	23,821
56	Apparel and accessory stores	16,367	17,806	18,455	18,628	18,657	18,473	19,372	20,228	20,801	21,669	21,764	17,713
Adjusted¹													
	Retail Inventories, total	221,466	224,632	226,063	228,626	231,837	233,856	234,443	235,845	235,092	235,439	237,062	237,234
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	160,825	162,641	163,516	164,131	166,524	167,893	168,779	170,132	170,933	172,087	173,349	173,162
	Durable goods, total	114,612	116,221	116,841	118,603	119,961	121,226	121,481	122,215	120,914	120,581	121,400	121,347
52	Building materials group stores	16,188	16,437	16,475	16,406	16,621	16,680	16,717	16,753	16,908	17,120	17,149	17,122
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	60,641	61,991	62,547	64,495	65,313	65,963	65,664	65,713	64,159	63,352	63,713	64,072
57	Furniture group stores	16,488	16,598	16,607	16,491	16,635	16,858	17,029	17,150	17,097	17,409	17,503	17,280
	Nondurable goods, total	106,854	108,411	109,222	110,023	111,876	112,630	112,962	113,630	114,178	114,858	115,662	115,887
53	General merchandise group stores	38,725	39,575	39,937	40,220	41,081	41,438	41,698	41,958	42,195	42,424	42,902	43,107
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	29,563	30,289	30,663	30,973	31,786	32,207	32,395	32,565	32,857	33,031	33,608	33,678
54	Food group stores	21,724	21,909	22,001	22,231	22,490	22,610	22,739	22,861	23,023	23,429	23,662	23,543
56	Apparel and accessory stores	18,308	18,704	18,832	18,854	19,096	19,263	19,314	19,375	19,458	19,452	19,590	19,422
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Unadjusted													
	Retail trade, total	1.72	1.82	1.59	1.62	1.52	1.53	1.57	1.48	1.61	1.71	1.67	1.30
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.57	1.68	1.48	1.51	1.41	1.42	1.47	1.44	1.56	1.62	1.54	1.09
	Durable goods, total	2.46	2.57	2.19	2.22	2.04	2.06	2.13	1.91	2.09	2.30	2.36	2.08
52	Building materials group stores	2.62	2.95	2.48	2.13	1.88	1.93	2.01	1.90	2.07	2.04	2.19	2.37
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	2.23	2.32	1.92	2.00	1.85	1.87	1.90	1.62	1.76	2.02	2.21	2.43
57	Furniture group stores	2.30	2.46	2.26	2.31	2.19	2.17	2.26	2.16	2.34	2.49	2.27	1.73
	Nondurable goods, total	1.28	1.38	1.21	1.25	1.18	1.19	1.22	1.20	1.31	1.36	1.29	0.92
53	General merchandise group stores	3.00	3.19	2.55	2.59	2.41	2.43	2.68	2.48	2.80	2.88	2.30	1.20
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.99	3.18	2.51	2.54	2.42	2.42	2.66	2.43	2.76	2.87	2.35	1.21
54	Food group stores	0.81	0.85	0.76	0.80	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.78	0.84	0.85	0.74
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.87	3.34	2.52	2.62	2.51	2.56	2.81	2.47	2.72	2.83	2.47	1.36
Inventories/Sales Ratios, Adjusted¹													
	Retail trade, total	1.54	1.58	1.58	1.57	1.58	1.60	1.59	1.58	1.57	1.59	1.59	1.59
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	1.44	1.47	1.47	1.45	1.46	1.47	1.47	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.47
	Durable goods, total	2.10	2.19	2.20	2.17	2.19	2.22	2.20	2.14	2.15	2.21	2.20	2.23
52	Building materials group stores	2.07	2.19	2.25	2.13	2.16	2.18	2.16	2.14	2.19	2.21	2.17	2.18
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1.89	1.99	1.98	2.00	2.03	2.06	2.02	1.92	1.92	2.00	1.99	2.04
57	Furniture group stores	2.14	2.20	2.23	2.18	2.19	2.19	2.25	2.23	2.23	2.27	2.26	2.27
	Nondurable goods, total	1.20	1.22	1.22	1.21	1.22	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.24	1.22
53	General merchandise group stores	2.30	2.43	2.41	2.38	2.44	2.43	2.44	2.45	2.40	2.42	2.43	2.42
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	2.25	2.39	2.37	2.34	2.42	2.42	2.43	2.43	2.41	2.43	2.47	2.45
54	Food group stores	0.77	0.77	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.80	0.80	0.79
56	Apparel and accessory stores	2.38	2.55	2.57	2.47	2.50	2.51	2.53	2.51	2.51	2.48	2.47	2.46

¹Inventory data adjusted for seasonal variations; sales data adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes.

Note: U.S. and group totals include kinds of business not shown.

Table 3. Estimated Purchases by Kinds of Business: 1989 to 1997

[Data in millions of dollars, not adjusted for price changes]

SIC code	Kind of business	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	Retail purchases, total	1,215,637	1,258,569	1,259,268	1,331,032	1,425,686	1,547,164	1,618,952	1,720,077	1,793,544
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	895,992	941,773	955,430	996,304	1,046,472	1,112,150	1,156,241	1,218,416	1,267,870
	Durable goods, total	489,941	491,510	475,617	519,223	583,637	664,739	708,475	763,539	798,569
52	Building materials group stores	64,339	65,003	62,954	69,742	77,653	87,923	92,296	99,185	105,485
521,3	Building materials, supply stores	48,547	49,723	48,285	53,662	60,058	68,188	71,395	76,704	82,306
525	Hardware stores	8,180	8,012	7,733	7,990	8,253	8,777	8,670	8,667	8,700
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	319,645	316,796	303,838	334,728	379,214	435,014	462,711	501,661	525,674
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	300,869	297,861	286,083	316,510	360,321	414,718	441,526	479,501	502,978
553	Auto and home supply stores	18,776	18,935	17,755	18,218	18,893	20,296	21,185	22,160	22,696
57	Furniture group stores	56,641	56,854	56,776	60,589	67,277	76,202	83,469	87,842	90,134
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	29,518	28,948	28,124	29,589	31,216	33,242	34,172	35,993	37,668
5722,31,34	Household appliance, electronics stores	22,500	22,903	23,269	25,496	30,070	36,379	42,250	44,530	45,202
	Nondurable goods, total	725,696	767,059	783,651	811,809	842,049	882,425	910,477	956,538	994,975
53	General merchandise group stores	143,903	149,014	158,907	173,860	186,562	202,045	212,680	222,769	234,196
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	109,980	110,563	116,648	125,724	134,739	149,074	158,059	166,798	176,757
533	Variety stores	5,205	5,444	5,416	6,276	6,226	6,140	6,374	6,841	7,018
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	28,718	33,007	36,843	41,860	45,597	46,831	48,247	49,130	50,421
54	Food group stores	266,877	276,631	279,494	281,123	285,297	293,958	297,000	305,901	312,050
541	Grocery stores	256,695	266,230	269,390	271,258	275,331	283,915	286,591	294,929	300,643
554	Gasoline service stations	98,796	113,738	112,537	110,301	112,509	117,256	121,433	130,988	133,988
56	Apparel and accessory stores	53,669	54,669	54,415	61,524	63,412	64,986	65,798	67,789	71,271
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	5,941	5,823	5,779	5,770	5,557	5,437	5,091	5,212	5,562
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	18,674	18,570	17,758	20,884	21,105	19,964	19,066	18,897	18,940
566	Shoe stores	9,778	10,518	9,996	10,228	10,229	10,685	10,888	11,526	11,897
58	Eating and drinking places	63,920	66,659	66,841	69,134	73,273	76,653	80,436	83,526	87,677
591	Drug and proprietary stores	45,739	50,858	54,795	56,634	57,765	59,939	63,358	67,565	72,392
592	Liquor stores	14,767	16,000	16,487	16,278	16,005	16,095	15,830	16,690	17,619
53,56,57,594	GAF, total ¹	293,913	301,328	311,014	337,951	362,351	392,157	413,385	432,676	450,229

¹GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, and miscellaneous shopping goods stores).

Note: U.S. and group totals include kinds of business not shown.

Table 4. Estimated Gross Margin by Kinds of Business: 1989 to 1997

[Data in millions of dollars, not adjusted for price changes]

SIC code	Kind of business	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	Retail gross margin, total	561,653	589,051	599,995	629,277	674,203	727,412	758,716	796,170	831,663
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	489,766	519,161	533,569	553,703	588,424	626,529	650,924	685,496	720,715
	Durable goods, total	176,463	177,246	172,193	188,450	210,424	240,682	252,140	263,006	273,180
52	Building materials group stores	29,015	29,568	28,273	31,593	34,980	40,268	40,800	43,790	46,211
521,3	Building materials, supply stores	19,432	20,755	19,762	22,371	24,756	28,606	28,613	30,980	32,329
525	Hardware stores	4,683	4,578	4,436	4,650	4,868	5,158	5,101	5,231	5,705
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	71,887	69,890	66,426	75,574	85,779	100,883	107,792	110,674	110,948
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	60,897	57,610	54,898	63,971	73,859	87,867	94,895	96,997	97,691
553	Auto and home supply stores	10,990	12,280	11,528	11,603	11,920	13,016	12,897	13,677	13,257
57	Furniture group stores	35,662	34,871	35,160	36,698	40,565	45,627	46,240	47,506	50,087
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	22,714	21,359	21,392	22,889	24,232	26,529	26,604	28,305	30,096
5722,31,34	Household appliance, electronics stores	10,176	10,273	10,369	10,518	12,548	14,839	15,506	15,075	15,874
	Nondurable goods, total	385,190	411,805	427,802	440,827	463,779	486,730	506,576	533,164	558,483
53	General merchandise group stores	66,122	65,982	71,022	75,330	81,096	83,049	88,117	91,451	96,128
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	53,992	55,045	58,815	62,546	68,011	70,857	75,818	79,278	84,216
533	Variety stores	2,881	2,892	2,937	3,633	3,409	3,289	3,381	3,670	3,878
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	9,249	8,045	9,270	9,151	9,676	8,903	8,918	8,503	8,034
54	Food group stores	82,177	93,283	95,672	96,206	98,012	101,512	106,994	110,502	113,442
541	Grocery stores	73,300	83,509	85,627	87,262	88,608	91,523	96,481	99,550	102,108
554	Gasoline service stations	24,545	25,116	24,488	26,516	28,935	31,569	35,561	37,568	37,557
56	Apparel and accessory stores	39,861	41,394	43,569	44,524	44,362	46,580	45,645	48,452	50,749
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	4,852	4,609	4,657	4,462	4,372	4,632	4,042	4,340	4,616
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	13,630	14,210	15,165	15,725	15,220	14,868	14,433	15,174	15,412
566	Shoe stores	7,818	7,734	7,452	8,062	8,276	8,787	8,842	9,097	9,047
58	Eating and drinking places	113,998	123,617	127,508	130,928	139,581	145,522	149,147	155,025	166,182
591	Drug and proprietary stores	18,885	20,677	21,783	20,920	22,536	22,892	23,113	25,258	28,187
592	Liquor stores	5,545	5,933	5,977	5,225	5,413	6,091	6,216	6,713	6,628
53,56,57,594	GAF, total ¹	169,291	170,621	178,833	185,841	198,605	210,992	216,829	225,313	236,790

¹GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, and miscellaneous shopping goods stores).

Note: U.S. and group totals include kinds of business not shown. See introductory text for an explanation of gross margin. Because of rounding differences, the published gross margin may not equal the gross margin calculated from its published components.

Table 5. Estimated Gross Margin as Percent of Sales by Kinds of Business: 1989 to 1997

SIC code	Kind of business	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	Retail sales, total	31.9	31.9	32.3	32.2	32.4	32.3	32.1	31.8	31.8
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	35.7	35.6	36.0	35.8	36.2	36.3	36.2	36.1	36.3
	Durable goods, total	26.9	26.5	26.5	26.8	26.9	27.1	26.6	25.8	25.6
52	Building materials group stores	31.4	31.2	30.9	31.3	31.5	32.0	31.0	30.9	30.7
521,3	Building materials, supply stores	28.8	29.5	29.0	29.7	29.7	30.0	28.8	29.0	28.3
525	Hardware stores	37.1	36.6	36.5	36.5	37.3	37.2	37.0	37.4	40.6
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	18.6	18.0	17.8	18.6	18.7	19.2	19.2	18.2	17.5
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	17.1	16.1	16.0	17.0	17.2	17.8	17.9	16.9	16.4
553	Auto and home supply stores	37.2	39.8	38.9	38.9	38.9	39.8	38.2	38.8	37.0
57	Furniture group stores	39.1	38.1	38.4	37.9	38.4	38.3	36.0	35.2	35.6
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	44.4	42.3	43.2	43.7	44.3	45.0	43.8	44.3	44.6
5722,31,34	Household appliance, electronics stores	31.2	31.1	30.9	29.4	30.3	29.8	27.4	25.2	25.7
	Nondurable goods, total	35.0	35.0	35.5	35.3	35.7	35.7	35.8	35.9	36.0
53	General merchandise group stores	32.1	30.6	31.3	30.6	30.7	29.4	29.6	29.2	29.1
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	33.6	33.2	34.0	33.6	34.0	32.6	32.8	32.4	32.4
533	Variety stores	36.3	34.8	35.2	38.2	35.0	34.8	34.7	35.0	34.9
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	24.4	19.4	20.4	18.1	17.7	16.1	15.7	14.6	13.6
54	Food group stores	23.7	25.3	25.5	25.5	25.6	25.7	26.5	26.6	26.7
541	Grocery stores	22.3	24.0	24.2	24.4	24.4	24.4	25.2	25.3	25.4
554	Gasoline service stations	20.0	18.1	17.8	19.4	20.4	21.2	22.7	22.3	21.9
56	Apparel and accessory stores	43.2	43.2	44.7	42.7	41.2	42.1	40.8	41.7	42.1
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	46.2	44.1	44.6	43.8	43.8	46.0	43.2	45.2	45.6
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	42.3	43.3	46.1	44.0	41.8	42.3	42.7	44.6	45.0
566	Shoe stores	45.2	42.9	42.6	44.5	44.7	45.4	44.8	44.1	43.5
58	Eating and drinking places	64.1	65.0	65.6	65.4	65.6	65.6	65.0	65.0	65.5
591	Drug and proprietary stores	29.8	29.3	28.8	26.9	28.2	27.9	26.8	27.4	28.4
592	Liquor stores	27.6	27.3	26.6	24.1	25.1	27.5	28.2	28.9	27.4
53,56,57,594	GAF, total ¹	37.2	36.2	36.8	35.8	35.9	35.5	34.7	34.3	34.5

¹GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, and miscellaneous shopping goods stores).

Note: U.S. and group totals include kinds of business not shown.

Table 6. Estimated Accounts Receivable of Retail Stores by Type of Account and Kinds of Business: End of Year 1997 and 1996

[Data in millions of dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	Total accounts receivable	Type of account								
							Installment				
			Charge		Total		Open-end		Closed-end		
		1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996
	Retail accounts receivables, total	63,991	63,213	16,085	15,746	47,906	47,467	42,405	42,270	5,501	5,197
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	57,810	57,178	12,667	12,384	45,143	44,794	40,981	40,949	4,162	3,845
52	Durable goods, total	22,022	21,412	10,337	10,036	11,685	11,376	7,513	7,570	4,172	3,806
55 excl.	Building materials group stores	6,601	6,368	4,993	4,524	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
554	Automotive dealers	6,181	6,035	3,418	3,362	2,763	2,673	1,424	1,321	1,339	1,352
57	Furniture group stores	6,232	5,989	1,221	1,355	5,011	4,634	2,813	2,805	2,198	1,829
	Nondurable goods, total	41,969	41,801	5,748	5,710	36,221	36,091	34,892	34,700	1,329	1,391
53	General merchandise group stores	30,896	30,869	110	148	30,786	30,721	30,459	30,367	327	354
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased depts.)	30,730	30,691	78	116	30,652	30,575	30,326	30,221	326	354
554	Gasoline service stations	1,329	1,425	979	1,021	350	404	324	365	(S)	(S)
56	Apparel and accessory stores	1,964	2,067	146	174	1,818	1,893	1,794	1,880	(S)	(S)

(S) Does not meet publication standards because of high sampling or nonsampling error.

¹Includes mail-order houses engaged in the sale of department store merchandise (SIC 5961 part).

Note: Measures of sampling variability are shown in table A-3.

Table 7. Estimated Per Capita Sales by Selected Kinds of Business: 1989 to 1998

[Dollars]

SIC code	Kind of business	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	Retail sales, total	7,176	7,444	7,409	7,702	8,128	8,691	9,035	9,496	9,815	10,205
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	5,601	5,880	5,921	6,096	6,336	6,662	6,882	7,189	7,440	7,720
	Durable goods, total	2,681	2,699	2,595	2,777	3,052	3,428	3,629	3,868	4,000	4,230
52	Building materials group stores	377	382	365	398	433	486	504	538	565	614
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1,575	1,564	1,488	1,606	1,792	2,029	2,153	2,307	2,375	2,485
57	Furniture group stores	372	369	366	383	412	460	491	512	528	565
	Nondurable goods, total	4,495	4,745	4,814	4,925	5,076	5,263	5,406	5,628	5,815	5,975
53	General merchandise group stores	842	870	905	972	1,031	1,091	1,140	1,187	1,239	1,306
54	Food group stores	1,416	1,486	1,495	1,488	1,494	1,525	1,542	1,574	1,595	1,629
554	Gasoline service stations	501	559	548	540	553	574	600	638	644	602
56	Apparel and accessory stores	377	387	389	411	420	428	428	440	452	472
58	Eating and drinking places	725	767	776	790	830	857	878	904	951	991
591	Drug and proprietary stores	258	285	302	307	311	317	329	349	373	397

Note: Civilian population estimates (in thousands) as of July 1: 1989 — 245,131; 1990 — 247,799; 1991 — 250,513; 1992 — 253,417; 1993 — 256,280; 1994 — 258,880; 1995 — 261,409; 1996 — 263,893; 1997 — 266,384; 1998 — 269,078

U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

The data are subject to sampling variability. However, measures of sampling variability for per capita sales are not available.

Appendix A.

Explanatory Material

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Census Bureau produces the *Annual Benchmark Report for Retail Trade* to provide national estimates of annual sales and end-of-year inventories of retail establishments by kind of business. The U.S. Census Bureau uses the more accurate annual estimates to revise the previously published estimates of monthly sales and end-of-month inventories. These revisions are also included in this report.

The sales and inventory estimates in this report are developed using data from a probability sample. The sample is taken from a universe of employer firms of all sizes and kinds of business in retail trade throughout the nation. Knowing each unit's probability of being included in the sample allows us to evaluate the sampling variability of the estimates.

SAMPLE DESIGN

This section describes the design of the sample used to estimate sales (monthly and annual) and end-of-year inventories. The sample used to estimate end-of-month inventories is a subsample of this sample. A description of the methods used to design this subsample is included at the end of this section.

Sampling Frame

A new sample was used to compute estimates beginning with the April 1997 data month. This section describes the design and selection procedures for the new sample. For a description of the prior sample see the *Annual Benchmark Report for Retail Trade* for 1997 or prior years.

The same sampling frame was used for the Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS) and the Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS). The frame has two types of sampling units represented — Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) and large, multiple-establishment firms. Both sampling units represent clusters of one or more establishments owned or controlled by the same firm. All of the information used to create these sampling units was extracted from establishment records contained on the Census Bureau's Standard Statistical Establishment List (SSEL) as updated to December 31, 1994. The next few paragraphs give details about the SSEL; the distinction between firms, EINs, and establishments; and the construction of the sampling units used in the sample selection. Though important,

they are not essential to understanding the basic sample design and readers may continue to the **Stratification, Sampling Rates, and Allocation** section.

The SSEL is a multi-relational database that contains a record for each establishment with employees. The establishment is the smallest entity represented on the SSEL. An *establishment* is a single physical location where business transactions take place and for which payroll and employment records are kept. Groups of one or more establishments under common ownership or control are firms. A *singleunit* firm owns or operates only one establishment, whereas a *multiunit* firm owns or operates two or more establishments. The treatment of establishments on the SSEL differs according to whether the establishment is part of a multiunit or singleunit firm. In particular, the structure of an establishment's primary identifier on the SSEL differs depending on whether it is owned by a *singleunit* or *multi-unit* firm.

A *singleunit* firm's primary identifier is its Employer Identification Number. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues the EIN and the firm uses it as an identifier to report social security payments for its employees under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA). The same act requires all employer firms to use EINs. Because single-unit firms have only one establishment, there is a one-to-one relationship between the firm and the EIN. Thus the firm, the EIN, and the establishment all reference the same physical location and all three terms can be used interchangeably and unambiguously when referring to single establishment firms.

For multiunit firms however, a different structure connects an employer firm with its establishments via the EIN. When reading the following, it may help to keep in mind the analogy of a filing cabinet (multiunit firm) composed of many drawers (EINs) each containing several files (establishments).

Essentially a multiunit firm is associated with a cluster of one or more EINs and EINs are associated with two or more establishments. Each firm is associated with at least one EIN and only one firm can use a given EIN. However, one firm may have several EINs. Similarly, there is a one-to-many relationship between EINs and establishments. Each EIN can be associated with many establishments but each establishment is associated with only one EIN. Because of the possibility of one-to-many relationships, we

must distinguish between the firm, its EINs, and its establishments. The firm that owns or controls a multiunit establishment is identified on the SSEL by way of the establishment's primary identifier.

A multiunit establishment's primary identifier consists of a unique combination of an alpha number and a plant number. The alpha number identifies the firm; and the plant number identifies the establishment within the firm. All establishments owned or controlled by the same firm have the same alpha number. Different firms have different alpha numbers and different establishments within the same firm have different plant numbers. The U.S. Census Bureau assigns both the alpha number to the firm and the plant numbers to the establishments based on the results of the quinquennial economic censuses and the annual Company Organization Surveys.

To create the sampling frame, we extracted the records for all establishments that have a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) that falls in the Retail Trade area as defined in the *1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual*. For these establishments, we extracted sales (or receipts), payroll, employment, inventory, name and address information, as well as primary identifiers and, for multiunit establishments, associated EINs. We summarize the economic data of multiunit establishments to an EIN level by tabulating the establishment data for all retail establishments associated with the same EIN. Similarly we summarize to a firm level by tabulating the establishment data for all establishments associated with the same alpha number. These are the sampling units created from multi-unit establishments. No aggregation is necessary to put singleunit establishment information on an EIN basis or a firm basis. Thus, the sampling units created for singleunit firms simultaneously represent establishment, EIN, and firm information. In summary, the sampling frame is a complex amalgam of establishments, EINs, and firms.

Stratification, Sampling Rates, and Allocation

The primary stratification of the frame is by kind-of-business group based on the detail required for this publication. We further stratify the sampling units within kind of business groups (substratify) by a measure of size related to their sales. To reduce the variance of the estimates, the largest sampling units are selected "with certainty." This means they are sure to be selected and will represent only themselves (i.e., have a selection probability of one and a sampling weight of one). Within each kind-of-business stratum a substratum boundary (or cutoff) that divides the certainty units from the noncertainty units is determined. We based these cutoffs on a statistical analysis of data from the 1992 Census of Retail Trade. Accordingly, these values are on a 1992 sales basis. We also used this analysis to set sampling rates needed to achieve specified sampling variability objectives for sales estimates for different kind-of-business groups. The reciprocal of the sampling rate is referred to as the sampling

weight. Note that we computed sampling rates using data from the 1992 Census, the actual sample size was determined by applying these sampling rates to the sampling frame constructed from the 1994 SSEL. We then allocated the sample optimally based on the number of sampling units and standard deviation of the units' measures of size. The allocation is optimal in the sense that it achieves the minimum variance for a fixed sample size.

Sample Selection

The first step in the sample selection identified certainty firms. If a firm had total retail sales (for 1994 adjusted to a 1992 basis) greater than the corresponding certainty cutoff for its major kind of business, the firm was selected into the sample with certainty. In this case, the firm is considered the sampling unit. This has important consequences when the firm adds establishments. If a firm was selected with certainty and had more than one establishment at the time of sampling, any new establishments that the firm acquires, even if under new or different EINs, are included in the sample with certainty. If a singleunit firm was selected with certainty all future establishments associated with that firm's original EIN are included with certainty; any new EINs that might later be associated with that firm are subjected to sampling as births (see below).

All firms not selected with certainty were subjected to sampling on an EIN basis. If a firm had more than one EIN, each of its EINs was a separate sampling unit. To be eligible for the initial sampling, an EIN had to have nonzero payroll in 1994. The EINs were stratified according to their major kind of business and their estimated sales (on a 1992 basis). Within each noncertainty stratum, a simple random sample of EINs was selected. We then assigned the selected cases to one of two groups. One group is canvassed for both the monthly and annual surveys, the other only for the annual survey. The sampling weights for the EINs selected in the sample for the monthly sales survey varied between 1 in 1 and 1 in 968.6. The maximum weight for the noncertainty sample canvassed for the annual survey was 464.3.

Sample Maintenance

Periodically, we update the sample to represent EINs issued since the last sample selection. For all EIN "births," a two-phase selection procedure is used. EIN births are new EINs recently assigned by the IRS, on the latest available IRS mailing list for FICA taxpayers, and assigned a kind-of-business classification (if possible) by the Social Security Administration (SSA). In the first phase, births are stratified by kind of business and size (expected employment or quarterly payroll). A relatively large sample is drawn and canvassed to obtain a more reliable measure of size, consisting of sales in two recent months, and a more detailed kind-of-business code, if needed.

Using this more reliable information, the selected births from the first phase are subjected to probability-proportional-to-size sampling with overall probabilities equivalent to those used in drawing the initial sample from the 1994 SSEL. Because of the lag in reporting births to the IRS, and the time needed to accomplish the two-phase birth-selection procedure, births are added to the sample about nine months or more after they begin operation.

The processing of the EIN births differs between the monthly and annual surveys. For the monthly survey (MRTS), the EIN births selected in a quarter are added into the survey during the quarter. Because births are not represented in the monthly sample until they go through the two-phase selection procedure, an interim procedure is used to account for births during the period between the onset of activity and the time of birth selection. This consists of imputing data for all selected cases that go out of business but are still on the IRS mailing list.

For the annual survey (ARTS), the births that are selected in the quarterly birth-selection procedure in November of the annual survey year are included in the main mailing of the ARTS questionnaires in January of the following year. To better represent all EIN births in the annual survey year, and specifically to account for the coverage lag in the birth-selection procedure, we add births to the annual sample that are selected in February, May, and August of the year following the survey year. We mail survey forms to these births in June and August to supplement the main annual survey mailing.

To be eligible for the sample canvass and tabulation in a given month, a retail EIN selected in the noncertainty sampling operations must meet both of the following requirements:

- It must be on the latest available IRS mailing list for FICA taxpayers from the previous quarter.
- It must have been selected from either the SSEL or the file of employer births.

EINs selected into the sample with certainty are not dropped from canvass and tabulation if they are no longer on the IRS mailing list. Rather, the business that used the EIN is contacted, and if a successor EIN is found, it is added to the survey. This is a more stringent quality control used for these larger businesses.

Estimation Procedures for Monthly Sales

All sampling units selected with certainty (weight equal to 1.0) are canvassed each month to obtain sales and other information for the month just ending. As noted previously, two samples of noncertainty (weight greater than 1.0) EINs were selected. Each month, all certainty sampling units and half of all selected noncertainty sampling units are asked to report their sales data for the month just ending. (The remaining half of the noncertainty units

are canvassed only for the annual survey.) The estimates are computed as the sum of weighted data (reported and imputed), where the weight for a given sampling unit is the reciprocal of its probability of selection.

Estimation Procedures for Annual Data

The annual sales, purchases, end-of-year inventories, accounts receivable, and gross margin estimates published in this report are based on the ARTS. The estimates are computed as the sum of weighted data (reported and imputed) for all selected sampling units that meet the tabulation criteria given in the **Sample Maintenance** section. The weight for a given sampling unit is the reciprocal of its probability of selection. For noncertainty units, annual weights are equal to half of the monthly weight because units from both noncertainty panels are used to produce annual estimates whereas only one panel is used to produce monthly estimates. The use of a larger sample results in annual estimates having less sampling variability than monthly estimates.

The estimates of total inventory published in this report are on a non-LIFO basis. For those firms that value inventory on a LIFO (last-in, first-out) basis, the LIFO reserve amount is added to the LIFO value to get inventory on a non-LIFO basis. In the ARTS, sampling units that used a LIFO cost basis for all or part of their inventory were asked to report LIFO reserves.

The estimates of gross margin represent sales minus the cost of goods sold (see text, Definition of Terms) and are a function of the sums of weighted sales, inventories, and purchases data reported by the sampling units in the ARTS. For 1997 we adjusted the inventories and purchases by multiplying the 1997 ARTS estimates by the ratio of 1997 preliminary census sales to 1997 ARTS sales. Therefore, 1997 purchases and inventories are comparable to the 1997 preliminary census sales shown in this report.

SUBSAMPLE TO ESTIMATE END-OF-MONTH INVENTORIES

As stated above, the sample used to estimate end-of-month inventories is a subset of the units used to estimate monthly and annual sales and end-of-year inventories. This section highlights differences between the design of the subsample and the complete sample.

Sampling Frame

The inventory sample is a subsample of the sales sample. Thus, the inventory sampling frame is the sales sample and has the same types of sampling units as the sales frame - companies and EINs. Descriptions of these sampling units are given above.

Stratification, Sampling Rates, and Allocation

Sampling units are stratified by their major kind of business. The stratification used for the monthly inventory sample is based on groupings of 3-digit and 4-digit Standard Industrial Classification codes. Because the estimates

of end-of-month inventories are produced for somewhat broader kind-of-business groupings, the stratification for the inventory sample is coarser than the stratification used for the sales sample. Sampling units are assigned to substrata based on a measure of size related to their sales. Sampling rates for the inventory subsample are computed using the same methods as described previously. The reciprocal of the sampling rate is referred to as the sampling weight. Units tabulated in the monthly inventory survey have both an inventory weight and a sales weight. Because the inventory sample is a subsample of the sales sample, the inventory weight is greater than or equal to the sales weight.

Sample Selection

The selection of the inventory sample is carried out independently within each sales-size substratum contained in a kind-of-business stratum. The actual selection procedure follows a systematic, probability-proportional-to-size scheme and will not be described here. Because the inventory sample is a subsample of the sales sample, it is possible that some units already have been selected with a sales weight that is greater than the desired inventory weight. These units are assigned to a separate panel without being subjected to a second sampling procedure. For these units, the inventory weight is set equal to the sales weight. Thus, in addition to the panel of certainty units and two panels of noncertainty units, there is another panel of noncertainty units that was not subjected to the subsampling. The sampling rates for the EINs selected in the sample for the monthly inventory survey varied between 1 in 1 and 1 in 2631.6.

Sample Maintenance

The inventory sample is updated in the same manner and at the same time as the Monthly Retail Trade Survey sample. A subsample of the births selected for the sales sample is selected for the inventory sample. The sampling rates of the initial inventory sampling are maintained.

Monthly Estimation Procedures

The procedures described above in the **Estimation Procedures for Monthly Sales** are followed except the sales weight is replaced by the inventory weight for all inventory computations.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

An estimate based on a sample survey potentially contains two types of errors - sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error occurs because characteristics differ among sampling units and because only a subset of the entire population is measured in a sample survey. Non-sampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a sample survey estimate. The accuracy of a survey result may be affected by these two types of errors.

Sampling and nonsampling errors are often measured by the quantities, bias and variance. The bias of an estimator of an unknown population value is the difference, averaged over all possible samples of the same size and design, between the estimator and the unknown population value. Any systematic error or inaccuracy that affects all samples in a similar way will cause the resulting estimates to be biased. *Variance* is the squared difference, averaged over all possible samples of the same size and design, between an estimator and its average value.

Descriptions of sampling variability and nonsampling error for the Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS) are provided in the following sections.

Measures of Sampling Variability

Because the estimates are based on a sample, exact agreement with the results that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of retail firms on the sampling frame is not expected. However, because each firm represented on the sampling frame has a known probability of being selected into the sample, it is possible to estimate the sampling variability of the survey estimates.

The particular sample used in this survey is one of a large number of samples of the same size that could have been selected using the same design. If all possible samples had been surveyed, under the same conditions, an estimate of an unknown population value could have been obtained from each sample. These samples give rise to a distribution of estimates for the unknown population value. A statistical measure of the variability among these estimates is the standard error, which can be approximated from any one sample. The *standard error* is defined as the square root of the variance. The *coefficient of variation* (or relative standard error) of an estimate is the standard error of the estimate divided by the estimate. Note that measures of sampling variability, such as the standard error or coefficient of variation, are estimated from the sample and are also subject to sampling variability. (Technically, we should refer to the *estimated* standard error or the *estimated* coefficient of variation of an *estimator*. However, for the sake of brevity, we have omitted this detail.) It is important to note that the standard error and coefficient of variation only measure sampling variability. They do not capture any systematic biases in the estimates. The table Estimated Coefficients of Variation and Standard Error for Retail Sales by Kind of Business gives the estimates of coefficients of variation in percent for recent dollar-volume sales estimates and trends. The table Estimated Coefficients of Variation and Standard Error for Retail Inventories by Kind of Business gives the estimates of coefficients of variation in percent for recent monthly dollar-volume inventory estimates and trends.

The estimate from a particular sample and the approximate standard error associated with the estimate can be used to construct a confidence interval. A *confidence interval* is a range about a given estimator that has a specified

probability of containing the estimator's corresponding, unknown population value. If, for each possible sample, an estimate of an unknown population value and its approximate standard error were obtained, then:

- For approximately 90 percent of the possible samples, the interval from 1.65 standard errors below to 1.65 standard errors above the estimate would include the unknown population value.
- For approximately 95 percent of the possible samples, the interval from two standard errors below to two standard errors above the estimate would include the unknown population value.

Nonsampling Errors

Nonsampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a sample survey estimate and may also occur in censuses. It is often helpful to think of nonsampling error as arising from deficiencies or mistakes in the survey process. In the MRTS nonsampling error can be attributed to many sources: (1) inability to obtain information about all firms in the sample, (2)

response errors, (3) differences in the interpretation of the questions, (4) mistakes in coding or keying the data obtained, and (5) other errors of collection, response, coverage, and processing. Although no direct measurement of the potential biases due to nonsampling error has been obtained, precautionary steps were taken in all phases of the collection, processing, and tabulation of the data in an effort to minimize its influence.

A potential source of bias in the estimates is due to imputing data for nonrespondents and for data which fail edit. (Imputation is the process of replacing a missing value by a predicted value obtained from an appropriate model for nonresponse.) Across all kinds of business combined, in any given month imputed data amounts to about 26 percent of the total retail sales estimate and about 32 percent of the end-of-month inventory estimate. For the annual survey, imputed data amounts to about 9 percent of the total retail sales estimate, 11 percent of the total end-of-year inventory estimate, 25 percent of the total purchases estimate, and 11 percent of the total accounts receivable estimate.

Table A-1. Estimated Coefficients of Variation for Monthly Retail Sales and End-of-Month Inventories by Kinds of Business: 1997

[Coefficients are percentages—based on sales and inventories estimates not adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, or trading-day differences]

SIC code	Kind of business	Sales		Inventories	
		Range	Median	Range	Median
	Retail trade, total	0.4-0.6	0.5	1.2-1.3	1.3
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	0.5-0.7	0.6	(NA)	(NA)
	Durable goods, total	0.8-1.0	0.9-1.2	1.0-1.2	1.1
52	Building materials group stores	2.0-2.6	2.2	2.9-3.3	3.0
521	Building materials, supply, hardware stores	2.2-3.0	2.5	(NA)	(NA)
521,3,5	Building materials, supply stores	2.2-2.8	2.3	(NA)	(NA)
525	Hardware stores	3.2-4.9	4.3	(NA)	(NA)
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	1.0-1.6	1.2	2.2-2.9	2.5
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	1.1-1.8	1.3	(NA)	(NA)
551,2	Motor vehicle dealers	1.2-2.0	1.6	(NA)	(NA)
551	Motor vehicle dealers (new & used)	1.3-2.2	1.8	(NA)	(NA)
553	Auto and home supply stores	4.4-5.2	5.0	(NA)	(NA)
57	Furniture group stores	1.5-1.9	1.7	3.7-4.3	4.0
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	2.1-2.8	2.6	(NA)	(NA)
5712	Furniture stores	3.2-4.0	3.7	(NA)	(NA)
5713	Floor covering stores	4.8-6.4	5.5	(NA)	(NA)
5722,31,34	Household appliance, electronics stores	2.9-3.1	3.0	(NA)	(NA)
5722	Household appliance stores	2.8-3.3	3.0	(NA)	(NA)
5731,34	Radio, TV and computer stores	2.5-2.9	2.8	(NA)	(NA)
5941	Sporting goods stores and bicycle shops	3.3-4.2	3.7	(NA)	(NA)
5942	Book stores	3.5-4.7	4.1	(NA)	(NA)
5944	Jewelry stores	4.2-5.4	4.6	(NA)	(NA)
	Nondurable goods, total	0.6-0.8	0.7	0.7-0.9	0.8
53	General merchandise group stores	0.1-0.3	0.2	0.3-0.3	0.3
531	Dept. stores, (excl. leased depts.)	0.0-0.0	0.0	0.2-0.2	0.2
531	Dept. stores, (incl. leased depts.) ¹	0.0-0.0	0.0	(NA)	(NA)
531 pt.	Conventional dept. stores ¹	0.0-0.0	0.0	(NA)	(NA)
531 pt.	Discount dept. stores ¹	0.0-0.0	0.0	(NA)	(NA)
531 pt.	National chain dept. stores ¹	0.0-0.0	0.0	(NA)	(NA)
533	Variety stores	2.1-2.3	2.2	(NA)	(NA)
539	Misc. general merchandise stores	0.7-1.7	1.0	(NA)	(NA)
54	Food group stores	1.2-1.3	1.2	0.9-1.4	1.0
541	Grocery stores	1.2-1.3	1.3	(NA)	(NA)
542	Meat, fish (seafood) markets	4.7-6.7	5.3	(NA)	(NA)
546	Retail bakeries	3.4-4.7	4.3	(NA)	(NA)
554	Gasoline service stations	2.8-3.3	3.1	(NA)	(NA)
56	Apparel and accessory stores	1.1-1.6	2.4	3.6-4.1	3.9
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	7.8-15.2	10.7	(NA)	(NA)
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	1.7-2.5	2.4	(NA)	(NA)
562	Women's ready-to-wear stores	2.2-3.1	2.9	(NA)	(NA)
565	Family clothing stores	1.2-2.4	1.5	(NA)	(NA)
566	Shoe stores	1.4-2.1	1.8	(NA)	(NA)
58	Eating and drinking places	2.2-2.9	2.7	(NA)	(NA)
5812	Eating places	2.3-3.1	2.9	(NA)	(NA)
5812 pt.	Restaurants, lunchrooms, cafeterias	2.1-3.4	2.7	(NA)	(NA)
5813	Refreshment places	4.2-4.9	4.5	(NA)	(NA)
591	Drinking places (alcoholic bev.)	3.0-5.1	3.9	(NA)	(NA)
592	Drug and proprietary stores	1.6-2.0	1.8	(NA)	(NA)
596	Liquor stores	1.8-3.7	2.5	(NA)	(NA)
596	Nonstore retailers ²	3.4-4.3	3.9	(NA)	(NA)
5961	Total mail order	3.3-4.7	3.9	(NA)	(NA)
598	Fuel dealers	4.5-7.4	5.5	(NA)	(NA)
53,56,57,594	GAF, total³	0.4-0.4	0.4	(NA)	(NA)
594	Misc. shopping goods stores	2.1-2.4	2.3	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

¹Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

²Includes establishments primarily selling merchandise through coin-operated vending machines, by house-to-house canvass, or from mail order.

³GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, miscellaneous shopping goods stores).

Note: The ranges and medians of the coefficients of variation shown above are based on sales and inventories estimates for the 12 most recent data months. Coefficients of variation for historical estimates are available in prior publications.

Table A-2. Estimated Coefficients of Variation for Annual Sales, End-of-Year Inventories, and Purchases: 1997
 [In percent]

SIC code	Kind of business	Dollar volume estimates			Inventories/sales ratio	Gross margin as a percent of sales
		Sales	Inventories	Purchases		
	Retail sales, total	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
	Durable goods, total	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.7
52	Building materials group stores	0.0	2.3	2.5	1.2	1.5
521,3	Building materials, supply stores	0.0	(NP)	2.9	(NP)	1.7
525	Hardware stores	0.0	(NP)	2.7	(NP)	3.1
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	0.0	1.2	1.0	0.8	1.0
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers	0.0	(NP)	1.1	(NP)	1.2
553	Auto and home supply stores	0.0	(NP)	3.1	(NP)	1.5
57	Furniture group stores	0.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8
571	Furniture and home furn. stores	0.0	(NP)	1.6	(NP)	0.9
5722,31,34	Household appliance, electronics stores	0.0	(NP)	1.5	(NP)	1.6
	Nondurable goods, total	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
53	General merchandise group stores	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased dept.)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
533	Variety stores	0.0	(NP)	1.6	(NP)	1.1
54	Food group stores	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.4
541	Grocery stores	0.0	(NP)	0.8	(NP)	0.4
554	Gasoline service stations	0.0	(NP)	1.9	(NP)	2.1
56	Apparel and accessory stores	0.0	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.4
561	Men's and boys' clothing stores	0.0	(NP)	5.9	(NP)	1.5
562,3	Women's clothing, accessory stores	0.0	(NP)	2.2	(NP)	0.8
566	Shoe stores	0.0	(NP)	1.7	(NP)	1.1
58	Eating and drinking places	0.0	(NP)	1.8	(NP)	0.5
591	Drug and proprietary stores	0.0	(NP)	1.2	(NP)	1.3
592	Liquor stores	0.0	(NP)	2.9	(NP)	1.3
53,56,57, 594	GAF, total ¹	0.0	(NP)	0.3	(NP)	0.4

(NP) Not published.

¹GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, miscellaneous shopping goods stores).

Note: The estimated coefficients of variation are based on 1997 Annual Retail Trade Survey data, adjusted to preliminary results of the 1997 Census of Retail Trade. Coefficients of variation for historical estimates are available in prior publications. Further detail for year-end inventories are available upon request.

Table A-3. Estimated Coefficients of Variation for Accounts Receivable Dollar Volume Estimates: 1997

[In percent]

SIC code	Kind of business	Total accounts receivable	Type of account			
			Charge	Installment		
				Total	Open-end	Closed-end
	Retail accounts receivables, total	1.0	3.0	0.9	0.9	4.5
	Total (excl. automotive dealers)	0.9	3.5	0.9	0.9	4.9
	Durable goods, total	2.4	4.2	3.3	4.6	5.1
52	Building materials group stores	5.8	7.5	(*)	(*)	(*)
55 excl. 554	Automotive dealers	4.6	5.6	7.4	11.7	10.2
57	Furniture group stores	3.1	7.5	3.8	5.6	6.3
	Nondurable goods, total	0.7	3.6	0.6	0.5	9.0
53	General merchandise group stores	0.4	3.6	0.4	0.4	0.1
531	Dept. stores (excl. leased dept.)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
554	Gasoline service stations	6.9	8.3	11.0	9.2	(*)
56	Apparel and accessory stores	3.9	13.5	4.1	4.2	(*)

*Measure of sampling variability are not shown because the corresponding total estimates are not published in Table 6.

Note: The estimates of sampling variability shown above are based on estimates derived from the 1997 Annual Retail Trade Survey. Coefficients of variation for historical estimates are available in prior publications.

Appendix B.

Kind-of-Business Classifications

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Retail trade SIC Major Groups 52-59, includes establishments primarily engaged in selling merchandise for personal or household consumption and rendering services incidental to the sale of goods.

The kinds of business shown in this report parallel broad classifications defined in the 1987 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) manual. Descriptions of each kind of business follow. Data for some kinds of business are not shown separately but are included in U.S. and group totals.

DURABLE GOODS

Building Materials Group Stores (SIC Major Group 52)

This major group includes retail establishments primarily engaged in selling lumber and other building materials; paint, glass, and wallpaper; hardware; nursery stock; lawn and garden supplies; and mobile homes even if sales to contractors account for the larger proportion of total sales. These establishments are known as "retail" in the trade. Establishments primarily selling these products but not selling to the general public are classified in wholesale trade.

Lumber and Other Building Materials Dealers (SIC 521).¹ Establishments engaged in selling primarily lumber and a general line of building materials to the general public. The lumber which they sell may include rough and dressed lumber, flooring, molding, doors, sashes, frames, and other millwork. The building materials may include roofing, siding, shingles, wallboard, paint, brick, tile, cement, sand, gravel, and other building materials and supplies. Hardware is often an important line of retail lumber and building materials dealers. Establishments known as "home centers" are included here.

Paint, Glass, and Wallpaper Stores (SIC 523).¹ Establishments engaged in selling primarily paint, glass, and wallpaper, or any combination of these lines, to the general public.

Hardware Stores (SIC 525). Establishments primarily selling a number of basic hardware lines such as tools, builders' hardware, paint and glass, housewares and household appliances, cutlery, and roofing materials, no one of which accounts for 50 percent or more of the sales of the establishments.

Retail Nurseries, Lawn and Garden Supply Stores

(SIC 526).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in selling trees, shrubs, other plants, seeds, bulbs, mulches, soil conditioners, fertilizers, pesticides, garden tools, and other garden supplies to the general public. These establishments primarily sell products purchased from others, but may sell some plants which they grow themselves.

Mobile Home Dealers (SIC 527).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of new and used mobile homes, including parts and accessories.

Automotive Dealers (SIC Major Group 55 ex. 554)

This major group includes retail dealers selling new and used automobiles, boats, recreational trailers, and motorcycles; and those selling new automobile parts and accessories. Automobile repair shops maintained by the establishments engaged in the sale of new automobiles are also included.

Motor Vehicle Dealers (New and Used) (SIC 551). Establishments primarily engaged in the sale of new automobiles or new and used foreign or domestic automobiles. These establishments frequently maintain repair departments and used car lots and carry stocks of replacement parts, tires, batteries, and automotive accessories. Used car lots and repair departments operated by franchised new passenger car dealers are not considered separate locations.

Motor Vehicle Dealers (Used Cars) Only (SIC 552).¹ Establishments primarily selling used cars and not holding a franchise for the sale of new cars.

Auto and Home Supply Stores (SIC 553). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of automobile tires, batteries, and other automobile parts and accessories. These establishments frequently sell additional lines of merchandise such as household appliances, radios and television sets, sporting goods, housewares, and hardware.

Boat Dealers (SIC 555).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of new and used motorboats and other watercraft, including parts, accessories, marine supplies, and outboard motors.

Recreational Vehicle Dealers (SIC 556).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of new and used recreational trailers, campers (pickup coaches), and other trailers for passenger automobiles, and motor homes, including parts and accessories.

Motorcycle Dealers (SIC 557).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of new and used motorcycles and motor scooters, including parts and accessories.

Automotive Dealers, Not Elsewhere Classified (SIC 559).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of new and used automotive vehicles, such as snowmobiles, dunebuggies, go-carts, aircraft, utility trailers, and new automotive equipment and supplies, not elsewhere classified.

Furniture Group Stores (SIC Major Group 57)

This major group includes retail stores selling goods used for furnishing the home, such as furniture, floor coverings, draperies, glassware and china, domestic stoves, refrigerators, and other household appliances and electronics.

Furniture Stores (SIC 5712). Establishments primarily selling household furniture, beds, mattresses, springs, and other sleep equipment. Also included in this classification are establishments selling household appliances, phonographs, radio and TV sets, and floor coverings, provided the receipts from sales of furniture and sleep equipment exceed those from sales of other merchandise.

Floor Coverings Stores (SIC 5713). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of floor coverings and related products.

Drapery, Curtain, and Upholstery Stores (SIC 5714).¹ Establishments primarily selling draperies, curtains, slipcovers, and upholstery materials. Establishments primarily selling custom made draperies and slipcovers for household use also are included.

Miscellaneous Home Furnishing Stores (SIC 5719).¹

Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of miscellaneous home furnishings, such as china, glassware, and metalware for kitchen and table use, bedding and linen, brooms, brushes, lamps and shades, mirrors and pictures, venetian blinds, window shades, and fireplace accessories.

Household Appliance Stores (SIC 5722). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of electric and gas refrigerators, stoves, and other household appliances, such as electric irons, percolators, hot plates, and vacuum cleaners. Many such stores also sell radio and television

sets. Retail stores operated by public utility companies and primarily engaged in the sale of electric and gas appliances for household use are classified here.

Radio, Television, and Electronics Stores (SIC 5731). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale and installation of radios, televisions, record players, sound reproducing equipment and home computers. Such establishments also may sell additional lines, such as household appliances, musical instruments, or records.

Computer and Computer Software Stores (SIC 5734). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of computers, computer peripheral equipment, and software.

Music Stores (SIC 5735+5736).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of musical instruments, phonograph records and albums, sheet music, and similar musical supplies.

Miscellaneous Durable Goods Stores (SIC Major Group 59, part)

This includes all retail durable goods stores not elsewhere classified.

Used Merchandise Stores (SIC 593).¹ This industry includes stores primarily engaged in the retail sale of used merchandise, antiques, and secondhand goods such as clothing and shoes; furniture; books and rare manuscripts; musical instruments; office furniture, phonographs and phonograph records; and store fixtures and equipment. This industry also includes pawnshops.

Sporting Goods Stores and Bicycle Shops (SIC 5941). Establishments primarily selling a general or a specialized line of sporting goods and equipment for hunting, camping, fishing, skiing, riding, tennis, golf, and other sports; bicycles, bicycle parts and accessories; and gymnasium and playground equipment.

Book Stores (SIC 5942). Establishments primarily selling new books and periodicals. Stationery and related items may also be sold.

Jewelry Stores (SIC 5944). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of any combination of the lines of jewelry, such as diamonds and other precious stones; rings, bracelets, and brooches; sterling and plated silverware; and watches and clocks.

Hobby, Toy, and Game Shops (SIC 5945).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of toys, games, crafts, hobby kits and supplies.

Camera and Photographic Supply Stores (SIC 5946).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of cameras, film, and other photographic supplies and equipment. Excluded are establishments primarily engaged in finishing films.

Gift, Novelty, and Souvenir Shops (SIC 5947).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of combined lines of gifts and novelty merchandise, souvenirs, and miscellaneous small art goods such as greeting cards and holiday decorations.

Luggage and Leather Goods Stores (SIC 5948).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of luggage, trunks, and leather goods.

Optical Goods Stores (SIC 5995).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of eyeglasses and related optical goods. Excluded are establishments whose receipts are primarily from examining eyes and prescribing eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Miscellaneous Retail Stores Not Elsewhere Classified (SIC 5999).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of specialized lines of merchandise such as collectors' items and supplies, artists' supplies, orthopedic and artificial limbs, drafting materials, cosmetics, telephones and communication devices, pets, religious goods, hearing aids, monuments and tombstones, picture frames, swimming polls, and other merchandise not elsewhere classified.

NONDURABLE GOODS

General Merchandise Group Stores (SIC Major Group 53)

This major group includes retail stores which sell a number of lines of merchandise, such as dry goods, apparel and accessories, furniture and home furnishings, small wares, hardware, and food. The stores included in this group are known as department stores, variety stores, general merchandise stores, general stores, etc.

Department Stores (SIC 531). Establishments normally employing 50 people or more, having sales of apparel and soft goods combined amounting to 20 percent or more of total sales, and selling each of the following lines of merchandise:

- Furniture, home furnishings, appliances, radio and TV sets.
- A general line of apparel for the family.
- Household linens and dry goods.

To qualify as a department store, sales of each of the lines listed above must be less than 80 percent of total store sales. An establishment with total sales of \$10 million or more is classified as a department store even if sales of one of the merchandise lines listed above exceed the maximum percent of total sales, provided that the combined sales of the other two groups are \$1 million or more. Department store sales have been separately presented for the following classifications:

Department stores (incl. leased depts.), and
Department stores (excl. leased depts.).

Department stores (incl. leased depts.) are also subcategorized as shown below:

Conventional Department Stores (SIC 531 part).

Establishments which satisfy the criteria of a department store and:

- Usually provide check-out service and customer assistance (salespersons) within each department.
- May have a catalog order desk.
- Are not affiliated with a company which operates similar establishments on a national basis.

These stores often sell:

- Soft goods and hard goods which are primarily nationally advertised brands.
- Appliances which are serviced by another company.
- Limited lines of merchandise through seasonal or special catalogs.

Discount Department Stores (SIC 531 part). Establishments which satisfy the criteria of a department store and usually:

- Convey the image of a high-volume, fast turnover outlet selling a variety of merchandise for less than conventional prices.
- Provide centralized check-out service.
- Do not provide customer assistance within store departments. Merchandise is normally sold through self-service with minimal assistance provided in any department.
- Do not have a catalog order desk.

These stores often sell:

- Soft goods which are usually their own corporate brands or are unbranded.
- Hard goods which are primarily nationally advertised brands.
- Appliances which are serviced by another company.

National Chain Department Stores (SIC 531 part).

Establishments which satisfy the criteria of a department store and:

- Usually provide check-out service and customer assistance (salespersons) within each department.
- May have a catalog order desk.
- Are affiliated with a company which operates similar establishments on a national basis.

These stores often sell:

- Soft goods and hard goods which are their own corporate brands or are unbranded.
- Appliances which are serviced by their own company.

Variety Stores (SIC 533). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of a variety of merchandise in the low and popular price ranges. Sales usually are made on a cash-and-carry basis with the open selling method of display and customer selection of merchandise. These stores generally do not carry a complete line of merchandise, are not departmentalized, do not carry their own charge service, and do not deliver merchandise.

Miscellaneous General Merchandise Stores (SIC 539). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of a general line of apparel, dry goods, hardware, home-wares or home furnishings, groceries, and other lines in limited amounts. Stores selling commodities covered in the definition for department stores, but normally having less than 50 employees, and stores usually known as catalog showrooms, country general stores, or warehouse clubs are included here. Also included in this classification are establishments whose sales of apparel or of furniture and home furnishings exceed half of their total sales providing that sales of the smaller of the two lines in combination with dry goods and household linens account for 20 percent or more of total sales.

Food Group Stores (SIC Major Group 54)

This major group includes retail stores primarily engaged in selling food for home preparation and consumption.

Grocery Stores (SIC 541). Establishments primarily selling (1) a wide variety of canned or frozen foods, such as vegetables, fruits, and soups; (2) dry groceries, either packaged or in bulk, such as tea, coffee, cocoa, dried fruits, spices, sugar, flour, and crackers; and (3) other processed foods and nonedible grocery items. In addition, these establishments often sell smoked and prepared meats, fresh fish and poultry, fresh vegetables and fruits, and fresh or frozen meats.

Establishments commonly known as supermarkets, food stores, convenience stores, and delicatessens are included in this classification if receipts from sales of groceries and food items for off-premise preparation and consumption are 50 percent or more of total sales.

Meat and Fish (Seafood) Markets, Including Freezer Provisioners (SIC 542). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of fresh, frozen, or cured meats, fish, shellfish, and other seafood. Frequently these establishments also sell poultry, dairy products, eggs, some groceries, and items commonly used in preparing seafood or consumed with seafood.

Fruit Stores and Vegetable Markets (SIC 543).¹

Establishments primarily selling fresh fruits and fresh vegetables. These establishments frequently carry a limited line of grocery items. Roadside stands of farmers selling only their own produce are not included.

Candy, Nut, and Confectionery Stores (SIC 544).¹

Establishments primarily selling candy, nuts, sweetmeats, and other confections. A soda fountain or lunch counter is frequently operated in these stores. Also included are candy and popcorn stands located in motion picture theaters.

Dairy Products Stores (SIC 545).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of dairy products, such as milk, cream, butter, cheese, and related products, to over-the-counter customers.

Retail Bakeries (SIC 546). Establishments primarily engaged in the over-the-counter retail sale of bakery products such as bread, cakes, pies, or cookies, all or some of which may be baked on the premises.

Other Miscellaneous Food Stores (SIC 549).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of specialized foods, not elsewhere classified, such as eggs and poultry, health foods, spices, herbs, coffee, and tea. The poultry stores may sell live poultry, slaughter and clean poultry for their own account and sell dressed fowls, or sell fowl cleaned and dressed by others.

Gasoline Service Stations (SIC 554)

Establishments primarily selling gasoline and automotive lubricants. Usually these establishments also sell tires, batteries, and accessories, and perform minor repair work and services. Establishments called garages but deriving more than half of their receipts from the sale of gasoline and automotive lubricants and establishments known as "truck stops" which are primarily engaged in selling diesel fuel to truckers are also included. Convenience food stores deriving more than 50 percent of their sales from the sale of gasoline are classified as gasoline service stations.

Apparel and Accessory Stores (SIC Major Group 56)

Establishments in this major group are primarily engaged in selling clothing of all kinds and related articles for personal wear and adornment.

Men's and Boys' Clothing Stores (SIC 561). Establishments primarily selling men's and boys' ready-to-wear clothing and furnishings.

Women's Ready-to-Wear Stores (SIC 562). Establishments primarily selling women's and girls' ready-to-wear apparel.

Women's Accessory and Specialty Stores (SIC 563).¹ Establishments primarily selling a specialized line of women's and girls' apparel, such as furs, sportswear, beachwear, blouses, hosiery, millinery, foundation garments, lingerie, robes, and other intimate wear.

Children's and Infants' Wear Stores (SIC 564).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of children's and infants' clothing, furnishings, and accessories. Such establishments may specialize in either children's or infants' wear or they may sell a combination of children's and infants' wear.

Family Clothing Stores (SIC 565). Establishments primarily selling clothing, furnishings, and accessories for men, women, and children, without specializing in any one line.

Shoe Stores (SIC 566). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of any one line, or a combination of the lines, of men's, women's, and children's footwear. These establishments frequently carry accessory lines such as hosiery, gloves, and handbags.

Miscellaneous Apparel and Accessory Stores (SIC 569).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of specialized lines of apparel and accessories not elsewhere classified, such as uniforms, bathing suits, raincoats, riding apparel, sports apparel, umbrellas, wigs, and toupees. This industry also includes custom tailors primarily engaged in making and selling men's and women's clothing (except fur apparel SIC 568) to individual order.

Eating and Drinking Places (SIC Major Group 58)

Establishments in this major group are primarily engaged in selling prepared foods and drinks for consumption on or near the premises and lunch counters and refreshment stands selling prepared foods and drinks for immediate consumption.

Restaurants, Lunchrooms, Cafeterias, and Contract Feeding (SIC 5812 part).

Restaurants and Lunchrooms.¹ Establishments engaged in serving prepared food and beverages selected by the patron from a full menu. Waiter or waitress service is provided and the establishment has seating facilities for at least 15 patrons. These establishments often serve alcoholic beverages, but receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages may not exceed the receipts from prepared food.

Cafeterias.¹ Establishments engaged in serving prepared food and beverages primarily through the use of a cafeteria line where customers serve themselves from displayed selections. Some limited waiter or waitress service may be provided. Table and/or booth seating facilities are usually provided.

Contract Feeding.¹ Establishments primarily engaged in providing food service under contract to another company; hospital; or governmental, penal, or educational institution. The facilities and personnel of these establishments may be provided by the contracting company, institutions, etc., however, the management is always supplied by the contractor.

Social Caterers (SIC 5812 part).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in serving prepared food and beverages for weddings, banquets, etc., at a hall or similar place rather than at a fixed business location. Such establishments also may arrange for some entertainment but this should be a minor part of the business.

Refreshment Places, Ice Cream and Frozen Custard Stands, (SIC 5812 part).

Refreshment Places.¹ Establishments primarily selling limited lines of refreshments and prepared food items. Included in this group are establishments which prepare refreshment items such as pizza, barbecued chicken, and hamburgers for consumption either on or near the premises or for "take-home" consumption.

Ice Cream and Frozen Custard Stands.¹ Establishments primarily engaged in selling ice cream, frozen custard, or other frozen ices for consumption either on or near the premises. "Take-home" packages also may be provided for ice cream sold in bulk.

Drinking Places (SIC 5813). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of drinks such as beer, ale, wine, liquor, and other alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises. Prepared foods are frequently sold at these establishments, but receipts from the sale of prepared foods may not exceed receipts from sales of alcoholic beverages.

Drug Stores and Proprietary Stores (SIC 591)

Establishments engaged in the retail sale of prescription drugs and patent medicines and which may carry a number of related lines such as cosmetics, toiletries, tobacco, and novelty merchandise. Included are drug stores which also have a soda fountain or lunch counter. These stores are included on the basis of their usual trade designation rather than on the more strict interpretation of commodities handled.

Liquor Stores (SIC 592)

Establishments primarily selling packaged alcoholic beverages, such as ale, beer, wine, and whiskey, for consumption off the premises. Liquor stores operated by States, counties, and municipalities are included.

Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods Stores (SIC Major Group 59, part)

This includes all retail nondurable goods stores not elsewhere classified.

Miscellaneous Shopping Goods Stores (SIC 594).

Establishments engaged in the retail sale of one or more lines of merchandise similar to that found in department stores.

Stationery Stores (SIC 5943).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of stationery, such as paper and paper products (including printing and engraving), post cards, novelties, and school and office supplies (excluding office furniture and machines).

Sewing, Needlework, and Piece Goods Stores (SIC 5949).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of piece goods, notions, sewing and knitting supplies, fabrics, patterns, and other needlework accessories.

Mail-Order Houses (Department Store Merchandise) (SIC 5961 part). Establishments with normally 50 or more employees primarily engaged in the retail sale by catalog and mail order of a general line of merchandise similar to that sold by department stores.

Other Mail-Order Houses (SIC 5961 part). Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of a specialized or limited line of merchandise such as food, automotive merchandise, apparel, books, stationery, etc., by catalog and mail order.

Automatic Merchandising Machine Operators (SIC 5962).¹

Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of products by means of automatic merchandising units (vending machines) which are generally located on the premises of other businesses. Those products include candy, nut, and confectionery; milk and ice cream; other beverages; and tobacco products.

Direct-Selling Operations (SIC 5963).¹ Establishments primarily selling merchandise by house-to-house canvass, by party plan, by telephone, or from a truck. The merchandise includes building materials, hardware, and garden supplies; general merchandise, milk; other foods; apparel and accessories; furniture, home furnishings, and equipment; mobile food service; and books and stationery.

Fuel Oil Dealers (SIC 5983).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of fuel oil.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Dealers (SIC 5984).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of liquefied petroleum (LP) gas (bottled gas or in bulk.)

Fuel Dealers, Not Elsewhere Classified (SIC 5989)¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of coal, coke, charcoal, wood, or any combination of these lines.

Florists (SIC 5992).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of cut flowers and growing plants. Greenhouses and nurseries are included if receipts are primarily from the sale of products not grown on the premises.

Cigar Stores and Stands (SIC 5993).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, and smokers' supplies. Many of the establishments included in this classification are operated as concessions in places of amusement, railway stations, airports, and other public places.

News Dealers and Newsstands (SIC 5994).¹ Establishments primarily engaged in the retail sale of newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals.

¹Data for this kind of business are not shown separately but are included in U.S. and group totals.

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